

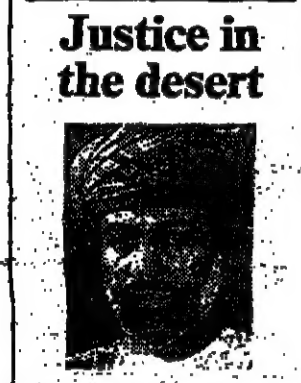


Ex-MP on terror charge freed
Extradition refusal sours Irish links

By Edward Gorman and Sheila Gann

ANGLO-IRISH relations plumed new depths yesterday with the Irish Supreme Court decision not to extradite Owen Carron, the former MP suspected of terrorism. The ruling that the firearms offences of which Carron is accused were political and not subject to extradition was greeted with anger by the British Government, and brought fresh calls from Conservative backbenchers for the Anglo-Irish agreement to be scrapped.

REVIEW
Justice in the desert



Deep in the Omani desert the Sultan holds court among his tribal elders. He hears petitions and makes decisions on the spot. Brian James reports: Page 31

Of mice, men and the Metro

There's more these days to the Paris Metro than trains. There's wildlife beneath the pavements, and enough traders and musicians to fill a street market: Page 34

Easter eggs

The shops are full of brightly packaged Easter eggs. To help you pick the best, our panel of tasters has been at work: Page 45

THE TIMES
BBC RADIO 4
PM
ENVIRONMENT
AWARD

The five finalists and how to vote for them: Page 35

TRAVEL
Last of the romantics

Today we begin a series on six of the world's great cities starting with a romantic exploration of New York: Page 57

SPORT
Big score by West Indies

The West Indies batsmen were amassing a big run total in the fourth Test in Barbados. Alan Lee and Simon Barnes: Page 47

INDEX

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page number. Includes Arts, Books, Bridge and chess, Business, Court & social, Family money, Food and drink, Gardening, Leading articles, Letters, Obituary, Outdoor leisure, Portfolios, Records, Shopping, Sport, TV & radio, Travel.



Acid burns on the 17th-century masterpiece after the attack. The museum says the only damage is to varnish

'Night Watch' acid attack

From Mark Fuller, Amsterdam

A DUTCHMAN yesterday sprayed sulphuric acid on the world-famous Rembrandt painting "The Night Watch" at the city's Rijksmuseum. The man, aged 31, was immediately held by two museum guards and handed to the police.

Mr P. van Thiel, the museum's keeper of paintings, said: "The damage to the painting, at the top left and centre, was not serious, affecting only the upper varnish layer. We got away with a bad case of shock." He said the painting will be taken to a secret location to be re-varnished and would be back on view in two weeks.

Mr van Thiel said the painting, owned by the Amsterdam city council, was not insured in line with government policy for works of art owned by the state or local authorities. He said it was impossible to put a price on the painting, properly called "The Militia Company of Captain Frans Banning Cocq". It acquired its popular name in the 19th century after its varnish darkened.

The museum would now consider extra protection for the painting. Mr van Thiel said. It has been under permanent guard since 1979 when it was put back on view after lengthy restoration following a knife attack in 1975.

A police spokeswoman said the man, who comes from The Hague, was in a "confused state" and had not given any reason for the attack. He was expected to be released after being interviewed by a psychiatrist.

Barrage of music for jail's rebels

By Peter Davenport and Ronald Faux

PRISON authorities yesterday sought to end the siege of Strangeways by adopting the tactic used by US Marines to drive General Noriega from the papal nunciature in Panama City.

They directed loud and constant pop music at the core of hardline prisoners still holding out on the shattered roof of the prison.

The music blared out from speakers on a police vehicle parked outside the prison walls and its immediate effect was to drown out the voice of Paul Taylor, spokesman for the prisoners, who spent much of yesterday attempting to make a further address from the roof.

Whether it was some kind of psychological warfare intended to demoralize was unclear, but shortly afterwards the police helicopter resumed hovering above the roof and sounding its high-pitched claxon.

Apart from these bizarre events, little obvious progress seemed to be achieved yesterday towards bringing the siege to an end.

After five days of almost continual negotiating, it was becoming clear last night that the remaining inmates, numbering between 18 and 30, would not willingly be dislodged. No one had surrendered since Thursday morning.

The alternatives open to the Governor, Mr Brendan O'Neil, seem increasingly to decrease, leaving only the use of force.

Emergency plans, page 4
Letters, page 11

Britons among injured in Nepal crackdown

By Christopher Thomas, Delhi, and Andrew McEwen, London

TWO Britons were among hundreds injured when the Nepalese Army fired on pro-democracy demonstrators in Kathmandu last night. United News of India said 25 people were killed and hundreds injured, while a report by the Press Trust of India gave the death toll as at least 22.

Another report quoted a doctor at Bir Hospital as saying a British man was among the dead, but this could not be confirmed. A witness who claimed he had seen 35 bodies said: "There are hundreds more wounded. It's a bloody mess."

There are about 760 British residents and an unknown number of tourists in the city. Mr Richard Burges Watson, The Foreign Office in

Riot pictures must be surrendered

By Lin Jenkins

NEWSPAPERS and television companies were yesterday ordered by the Central Criminal Court to hand over photographs and film footage of the poll-tax riot to the police inquiry.

Judge Neil Denison said that while he accepted that the granting of such orders to hand over pictures to police inquiries should not be automatic or routine, the overriding public interest was that the criminals be apprehended and brought to trial.

He said he accepted arguments from those news organizations which contested the application that there was also a public interest in the media being seen to be impartial in their reporting and he accepted that when film found its way into the hands of the police it increased the dangers to newsmen doing their jobs.

There are two conflicting public interests and in a sense they are irreconcilable. The police should have the material available for their inquiry and the media should not be seen to have become an arm of the police or any other organ of the state," he said.

But in this case there was very serious rioting and the peace of the streets of London was for a while suspended.

Mr Geoffrey Shaw, counsel for the BBC and TVAM, told the court that the police would continue to fail to take adequate video footage and still photographs of public disorder if they could rely on the courts to order that film be handed over to subsequent police inquiries.

£80m staked on National

BOOKMAKERS are expecting to take £80 million on the outcome of today's Seagram Grand National.

As the sun shone on Aintree yesterday, once-a-year backers latched on to the 7-1 favourite Brown Windsor, a fast-ground specialist, as their ally in attempting to lighten the bookmakers' satchels.

So fast has the ground become that William Hills is offering only even money that Red Rum's record time of 9min 01.9sec, set in 1973, will be broken.

The 1986 winner, West Tip, is competing in his sixth consecutive National, with youth represented by Ghofar, a comparative upstart.

Race preview, pages 52, 53

HOLIDAY
ONTARIO
BY CONCORDE
Ontario by Concorde, an unforgettable experience
After crossing the Atlantic at twice the speed of sound, we collected our car in Toronto. A little later, and just over six hours after leaving London, we arrived.
A five-star cottage on the sun-drenched shores of Georgian Bay with sailing, fishing, windsurfing and a host of other activities including dining nothing at all literally on our doorstep.
Far from the maddening crowds, we spent some time in the Ontario wilderness, getting gently back to nature, before returning to the superb Sutton Place Hotel in Toronto for the last two nights.
Actually, I'm glad we chose for rather than the cottage holiday. Ontario style, although while water-skiing and sailing the Great Lakes did sound interesting. Maybe next time.
Call now or ask your travel agent for a brochure.
EXPERIENCE THE MOMENT
01-685 1568
Blyth & Company
Ambassador Suite & Junior Suite and Lunch
1440 Queen Street West, Toronto
For more information contact Blyth & Company at 011-255-1022

Howe plea for calm

By Sheila Gann, Political Reporter

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy Prime Minister, will attempt to steady Tory nerves today by insisting that the party will overcome "current difficulties" and go on to win the next general election.

As the party was rocked by the latest opinion survey, depicting Mrs Thatcher as the most unpopular Prime Minister since polling began 50 years ago, Sir Geoffrey prepared his appeal to colleagues to devote themselves to "the reestablishment of our political primacy".

In a speech in Oxford, Surrey, tonight he is expected to set out his agenda for reviving the party's fortunes within the next two years.

As MPs left Westminster for the Easter recess, the Tories were gloomy at the prospect of feeling the full force of the poll. Continued on page 16, col 6

Could warning, page 2
Thatcher's chances, page 10

Burns immortalized in a computer database

By Philip Howard, Literary Editor

THE NATIONAL bard of Scotland has been comprehensively computerized, and his poems are now available for the first time. What the immortal poet of individual freedom (and Scottish chauvinism, and wenching, and boozing) would have made of this is doubtful. But I have no doubts. As Burns put it in "Address to the Unco Guid": "What's done we partly may compute. But know not what's resisted."

It is the labour of love of James Mackay, a Burns buff and writer from Dumfries, and is published by him today at £38.50. He amassed six megabytes of Burns information, and says: "In many respects the computerization of the lines was the easy part. The problems stretched into infinity when it came to translating the material in this database into a word-processing mode."



Robert Burns: converted into megabytes

The task of tabulating Burns was attempted once before, exactly a century ago, with quill pen and slips of paper by the Rev John Brown Reid, minister of Wigtown Free Church in Galloway. Since then, 116 more poems and songs have been added to the official Burns canon. The new concordance also takes into account the numerous bawdy works, which naturally did not appear in standard editions until 1968.

Mr Mackay says: "During my work I discovered that Burns used the same line in several different poems. But if it's a good line, why not? Homer did it all the time." He was amazed that Burns mentioned Dumfries by name only once in all his poems, although he spent his last years in the town. On the other hand, Ayr is mentioned no fewer than 30 times. Presumably Ayr rhymed better, and is a more beautiful town - pushing it a bit.

The book will be an invaluable tool for those called upon to make speeches at Burns Night dinners, and display their Caledonian erudition at other such events. The Burns cult flourishes all around the world, wherever emigrants from Scotland have taken it - that is to say, all round the world, wherever maudlin Scottish exiles meet each other quoting through the Rye. The new concordance was partly financed by a retired Australian businessman, through the world-wide Burns Federation.

Anglo-Irish pact likely to survive extradition strain

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

THE Irish Supreme Court decision to set free Owen Carron, a former Westminster MP and a suspected terrorist, yesterday sparked inevitable anger among the traditional critics of Dublin in Britain.

Their reaction underlined what may turn out to be the most damaging aspect of the affair: that the decision and the one last month on which it was based will make early moves towards political progress in Northern Ireland virtually impossible.

There are few Unionist politicians who could now contemplate attempting to sell to their constituents any kind of deal or compromise with either Dublin or the SDLP.

But there is no real prospect that Britain will allow extradition arguments to threaten the Anglo-Irish Agreement, because part of its purpose is to see the two governments through such disputes.

While critics claim that Ireland is displaying its true hand as a "safe haven" for terrorists, the view in Dublin is strikingly different.

Irish lawyers say that in most future cases, suspected or convicted IRA men captured in the republic will be sent back without delay.

The key is that Owen Carron and the two Maze escapees, James Pius Clarke and Dermot Finucane set free last month, were being judged under Ireland's 1965 Extradition Act which allows British warrants to be ignored for "political" offences.

That standard has been superseded by the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism which came into force in the Irish Republic in December 1987, under which almost all the serious offences connected with terrorist activity warrant automatic extradition.

In the short term, however, further frustrations for Britain are likely because in some outstanding cases, defence lawyers will be able to argue that the case should be treated under the old law.

There is likely to be little comfort, either, in the cases of eight Maze escapees still on the run in the Republic. If they are ever brought to book they may avoid extradition, as did Clarke and Finucane, on the grounds that they might face physical assault by Maze prison staff on their return.

Much of the frustration in Britain over extradition has been caused by what a leading lawyer in Dublin described yesterday as the "shabby" misinterpretation of the 1965 Act by the Supreme Court in the case of Dominic McGlinchey in 1982.

Then, the court decided that a political offence had to mean an "offence which reasonable civilized people would regard as political activity". In refusing to extradite Clarke and Finucane, the Supreme Court overruled that precedent.

One other point arising out of yesterday's decision is why the British authorities do not use the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act, which allows criminals to be tried in the republic for offences committed in Northern Ireland.

Some lawyers in Belfast suggest that Britain is reluctant to do that in case the Dublin courts set people free, and for fear of casting a slur on the British courts by abandoning efforts to bring terrorists to justice there.



Mr Owen Carron is manhandled through the crowd after escaping extradition from the Irish Republic yesterday

Aid denied to disabled living at home

By Jill Sherman
Social Services
Correspondent

THOUSANDS of severely disabled people will be refused financial help to live at home this year because the Government has failed to provide sufficient funding, it was claimed yesterday.

The Independent Living Fund, set up by the Government in 1988 to help to pay for domestic assistance for the disabled, said that from Monday it would stop processing new applications and suspend decisions where applicants had not already been assessed by the fund's social workers.

The fund has committed almost all its £24 million budget this year to existing claimants but it is still receiving 1,800 new applications a month, of which it approves about 600. Earlier this week the Government offered to provide a further £8 million for the fund but this falls far short of the £15 million which the organization claims is needed to continue providing help for those meeting the already tight criteria.

The group was set up as an independent charitable trust after social security changes ended weekly payments for domestic assistance.

Labour makes poll tax key election issue

By Sheila Gann, Political Reporter

Mr Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, warned the Government yesterday that it cannot treat Labour-controlled councils as scapegoats for the "Tory poll-tax fiasco".

Firing the opening shots in the local council elections campaign, he indicated that Labour's strategy will be to exploit unease over the poll tax while tying it around Mrs Thatcher in view of the latest poll evidence of her increasing unpopularity.

Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, who has been brought in to boost the Tories' campaign, however, sought yesterday to focus voters' attention on the antics of "loony left councils".

Mr Gould, who was Labour's campaign co-ordinator during the 1987 general election, is to mastermind Labour's campaign team in the May 3 elections of councillors to 36 metropolitan districts, 115 English districts, 32 London borough and local Scottish and Welsh councils.

He will be helped by other Labour frontbench spokesmen, particularly Mr David Blunkett, shadow local government minister.

Launching the campaign in Bristol, where the local council is a target for this week's charge-capping, Mr Gould blamed the high levels of poll tax bills on central government policy. The Government, he said, had seriously miscalculated by £3 billion "deliberately or otherwise" the amount needed by Tory and Labour-controlled local councils to maintain services.

"It is no service to poll tax



Mr Gould: Launched Labour's campaign

In a leaflet produced by the Methodist Church they called on Mrs Margaret Thatcher to repeal the community charge.

In the pamphlet explaining the tax, the Rev John Kennedy adds: "The community charge has outraged the public by its unfairness and by the frequent adjustment to its operation on blatantly political grounds."

"A faction within the Government has imposed its will on Cabinet, on Parliament and on the country. This makes wide-scale protest in the streets inevitable."

Ruling brings new fears on heritage

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

THERE is grave concern in the heritage lobby about the future of an important cabinet at Badminton House, Gloucestershire, after a ruling at Bristol Crown Court.

Mr John Murdoch, assistant director for collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum, said: "The two major issues facing us, 'The Three Graces' and the looming Badminton cabinet, are a measure of the crisis facing the nation in funding of our museums."

Last week his museum confirmed that the Temple Cabinet - which has been described as "one of the most important pieces of furniture in England" - had been offered privately for sale for about £4 million.

At first there was criticism that the valuation, reported to have been done by the auctioneers Christie's, was too high. The figure was "entirely

arbitrary", another expert said.

There is little likelihood that the museum, which has just failed to raise £7.6 million to save Canova's "The Three Graces", can raise the money.

Later in the week the Bristol ruling added to apprehension. Here the conviction of an executor of an estate in Somerset for selling fixtures and fittings in contravention of the listed buildings law was quashed. One of the reasons given by the recorder was that the overmantle mirror in question had been moved from its original position, and was therefore no longer part of the listing.

It is an argument which has also been offered by Mr David Trippier, the environment minister, in respect of the Canova, which has been removed from its original site at Woburn Abbey.



Judge issues warning on steroids that 'ruined' man

A JUDGE issued a warning yesterday that the abuse of anabolic steroids can turn fit and healthy people into "slamming wrecks".

Ronald Thacker, aged 56, a bodybuilder and weightlifter, who took up to nine steroid injections a day "to keep young" because he was in love with a girl aged 13, sat shaking uncontrollably in the dock at the Central Criminal Court as Mr Justice Rousier spoke.

Thacker was described as a "living corpse", wracked by years of addiction to stimulants.

Mr Richard Soames, for the defence, said: "He never wanted to believe in getting old and dreaded the thought of losing a young lover."

Thacker, a cleaner, of Kane Road, Thamesmead, pleaded guilty to possessing steroids and stimulants, favoured by sportsmen, with intent to supply.

He also admitted having unlawful sexual intercourse with an under-aged girl and illegally possessing a loaded revolver.

Thacker sat with head bowed as the judge described him as "obviously a pathetic and mixed-up person".

His obsession with physical fitness had led to his becoming a "shaking wreck" because of the vast quantities of drugs that he had been taking daily for 20 years.

Mr Justice Rousier added: "There is a prime example of what can happen to a healthy man. I'm not surprised to see the effect of all this stuff he's been shoving into himself."

Thacker was remanded to a psychiatric hospital for reports and is due to be sentenced next week.

Earlier, Det Sergeant Keith Snow told the court that during a raid on Thacker's tower block flat, police had found 9,000 individual doses of drugs, £2,000 in cash and 900 syringes.

Thacker had been running a "surgery" at which gymnasts, athletes and bodybuilders were able to obtain supplies of testosterone, the male sex hormone, and also stocks of

an appetite suppressor and sex stimulant.

The officer said that Thacker had refused to name the medical source of the drugs, but it was suspected that he obtained them from a wholesaler.

The authorities are now issuing warnings to GPs and chemists to control the distribution of the steroids.

Thacker, a divorced man and a "fanatical pumper of iron", had been involved in a large business supplying the drugs, said the judge, who agreed that there was "a great deal of confusion" about the use of steroids.

"We all know that various people have been sent home in disgrace from athletics meetings," he added.

The court heard that Thacker had fallen "head over heels in love" with a schoolgirl runner, who soon became his lover. He had supplied her with some of the sex stimulant drugs.

Now almost 15, the girl had been a regular visitor to his home for sex sessions. He had taken photographs of her naked and had made a video film of them having sex. The girl had been a virgin when they met.

Mr Soames told the judge that Thacker was "completely besotted by her and devoted to her".

Mr Soames added: "He has now become a broken man because of his obsession with keeping young and taking these drugs."

"He fooled himself into believing that he would always have a fine body and be able to please her."

"He was in love with her and asked her to marry him. She felt the same way about him and was an enthusiastic bed partner."

Mr Soames said: "That affair with the girl seems part and parcel of his desperate attempt not to be a 56-year-old. He did not want to believe he was middle-aged."

Mr Justice Rousier told Thacker: "The most serious aspect of this case is that you were debauching a girl of 14."

Classics of the road show their paces again

ADRIAN BROOKS



Three classic cars from the collection at Filching Manor, Polegate, East Sussex, run along the front at Bexhill in preparation for the town's festival of motoring on May 6 and 7

French link murder to earlier stabbing

By David Sapsted

FRENCH police investigating the murder of a British businesswoman in Cherbourg are believed to have a description of the man who stabbed her 17 times.

Detectives think he is still in the Normandy town and are linking the murder with an earlier attack last month when another woman living nearby, who was seven months pregnant, was stabbed by an unknown assailant. She and her baby, delivered by Caesarian section with a stab wound to his foot, survived.

A post-mortem examination on Miss Alison Dutton, aged 24, who worked for a company exporting wine to Britain, was conducted yesterday afternoon but the results are not expected until early next week. Detectives said there appeared to be no sexual motive and that nothing appeared to have been stolen from the office where the body was found, close to the cross-Channel ferry terminal.

Miss Dutton, from Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear, was a graduate of Edinburgh University and was due to marry her French fiancé, M. Michel Lechanoine, in two months' time. He found her body in the office late on Wednesday evening after becoming concerned that she had not returned to their flat.

French detectives have traced several people who were in the area at the time of the attack. Miss Dutton, who graduated from Edinburgh in July, 1989, had joined the wine company as a junior executive in January.

M. Philippe Prevel, who works for an import-export company in the same building as Miss Dutton, yesterday described her as a shy, introverted woman who was well-liked by everyone.

"She was a very kind, very sweet person - a bit shy. She was well-educated, gentle, hard-working and always helpful. Everybody here is very shocked, of course - especially the women," he said.

"Usually I am the last man

to leave the office. Some of the girls used to stay later, but from now on I will make sure that when I leave everybody leaves."

Miss Dutton often stayed later than most other people in the building because she was working to British time, which is one hour later than French time. Her secretary left at about 6.10pm on Wednesday and her body was found by her fiancé, a fireman, three hours later. He has been interviewed by police and released without charge.

Mme Michelle Saurel, the examining magistrate, said yesterday that a number of witnesses had been interviewed and that it was possible the murder was connected with the earlier knife attack and, possibly, the unsolved and similar killing of a woman in the town almost five years ago.

Friends of Miss Dutton in Tynemouth yesterday described her as a lively girl who loved France and music. She was a talented violinist, playing in the Northern Junior Philharmonic Orchestra and leading the Tynemouth Orchestra.

Mr Peter Swan, secretary of the orchestra, said: "Alison was a marvellous musician



Miss Dutton: Police have a description of her killer

Colony of penguins wiped out by virus

By Ruth Gledhill

SCIENTISTS have identified the virus that has wiped out a colony of endangered penguins at Rode, Somerset, as one from the herpes family.

The fourteenth and final blackfooted penguin, *Spheniscus demersus*, died this week at the Tropical Bird Gardens, which is now without penguins for the first time in 28 years.

Colonies of blackfooted penguins at Bristol and Paignton zoos have not been affected.

Mr Gerry Benbo, veterinary surgeon for Rode, said: "Tests are not yet complete. We do not know how the virus got in or why other water birds on the lake were not affected."

"It is terribly sad. Some of the birds had been reared there. They were tame and walked among the public."

"We dare not restock until we know where the virus came from."

Scientists believe that the viral deaths were not connected with the deaths of all but one of a colony of Humboldt penguins at Burford, Oxfordshire.

Dr John Baker, senior lecturer in veterinary pathology at Liverpool University, said the 18 penguins at the Cotswold Wildlife Park had died as a result of liver failure, probably caused by a toxin. Four rockhopper penguins also died.

Collectors face match warning

By Harvey Elliott

Well travelled philumenists will have to take special precautions if they are to continue with their hobby of collecting matches without incurring the wrath of the Civil Aviation Authority.

Many businessmen slip the books and boxes of matches freely available in most hotels into their pockets to add to collections at home.

The practice, however, could be endangering the aircraft on which they fly as many of these matches are of the non-safety variety and liable to catch fire.

Five such fires - none serious - were reported to the Civil Aviation Authority last year, one reason why it chose to spend £280,000 launching a new Air Travellers' Code for the 20 million people who buy tickets in Britain each year.

Mr Ronald Ashford, group director of safety regulations for the CAA, admits to taking such matches out to planes.

"It is a very silly thing to do and could endanger an aircraft. Not only that it is against the law."

The CAA is even pressing for changes in legislation to give their inspectors the right to make snap searches of passengers and their luggage at airports to ensure they are not carrying non-safety matches or other dangerous goods.

They also intend to step up prosecutions to deter the apparently growing trend of passengers to take such items on board. They would also

welcome ways of enabling duty-free goods to be collected at the destination rather than carried on board aircraft.

"It is a relatively minor fire hazard but the glass bottles in which duty-free goods sold at airports are contained can smash in an emergency and cause cuts to passengers as well as damaging safety slides," Mr Ashford said.

The code will be given away by travel agents with airline tickets and made available at airports.

It says cabin luggage must be small enough to fit into overhead luggage lockers and should have been packed by the traveller himself. Gifts should be left unwrapped so they can be examined by security staff and should be in bags that do not have outside zip pockets to avoid tampering.

The code lists goods which must not be carried, from firearms to poisons and weedkillers.

Sharp warnings about drinking too much before or during the flight are also given.

The CAA chairman Christopher Tugendhat said that amounts which can have little effect on the ground "can go straight to your head 35 miles up".

Smoking on flights, the CAA says, will not be banned outright because of fears that determined smokers will try to find an unauthorized - and dangerous - place to light up, such as the lavatories. Rules on the times when smoking is permitted must be kept to.

Fraud on bank to help gambler

A WOMAN turned to crime to pay her husband's debts after he became so addicted to gambling that he spent £500 a day on gaming machines, a judge at Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

Julie Wilson, aged 26, obtained £20,000 by fraud from the Midland bank branch in St Clement's Dances, in the City of London, where she worked as a clerk.

The extra money appeared only to increase Raymond Wilson's addiction. He spent £19,000 of the money made from the fraud on "one-armed bandits", Mr Godfrey Mott, for the defence, said.

"It must have seemed like manna from heaven to him to be able to draw on such funds. It all went straight into fruit machines."

"He could not pass a machine without putting money in it. Every day for three weeks

he drew £500 from the bank and spent it all on his addiction," Mr Mott said.

Judge Paiba jailed Raymond Wilson for two years and Julie Wilson was sentenced to two years with 18 months suspended.

The couple, from Addington Road, Canning Town, east London admitted theft and false accounting between March 7 and April 11 last year. Raymond Wilson, a bus driver, asked for 47 related charges to be taken into consideration. His wife asked for 35 other charges to be taken into consideration.

Mr Godfrey Browne, for the prosecution, said that the wife earned only £6,000 a year from the bank. The couple were in financial difficulties from the beginning of their marriage in 1984 and she had committed the crime to help her husband.

Ship inspires dry land successor

By Craig Seton

THE distinctive lines of the Blue Riband holder Mauretania, its four funnels belching smoke, may be seen in Britain once again. Its reappearance, however, is intended to be in the form of a five-star hotel near Birmingham.

Plans for a hotel in the shape of the former Cunarder, built in 1906 and scrapped in 1935, have been prepared for the British Rail Property Board, which owns land alongside Birmingham International Airport on which it is proposed to build it.

The hotel would incorporate many features of the former transatlantic liner, including its four funnels, to be used for air-conditioning and for pumping out steam to simulate smoke, a ballroom, teak "decks" on which shuffleboard and quoits could be played, lifeboats rocking at their stations, brass fittings and a replica of the bridge.

A multi-storey car park would be housed in the "engine room".

The hotel is the idea of Mr Richard Borwick, an independent adviser to British Rail, who believes that fun should be put back into architecture. The British Rail Property Board is, it seems, taking the suggestion seriously.

Mr Borwick said yesterday: "We believe it is feasible. How likely is it to be built? I think

that it is a good idea and that it will be built, if not in Birmingham, then somewhere else."

"An ocean-going liner was a logical idea. It is the only thing Birmingham does not have."

The overriding force behind it is fun. I chose the Mauretania because everyone's idea of an ocean liner is a four-stacker."

The 400-bed hotel would be linked to the airport by a monorail running at deck-level. The hotel plan has yet to

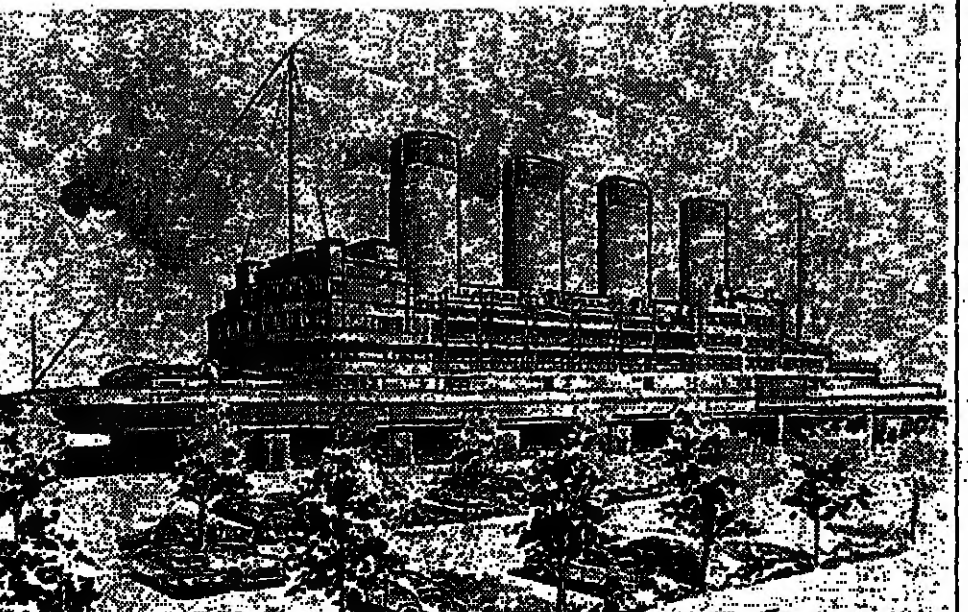
be submitted to the two local authorities involved, Birmingham and Solihull councils.

A spokesman for the British Rail Property Board said yesterday: "It is at a very early stage, but it is a very imaginative idea. We are looking to do something with that land and this is one of the suggestions put to us. There are already road, rail and air links in the area, so why not another mode of transport?"

When the Mauretania, which was built on the Tyne,

was broken up at Rosyth in 1935 *The Times* was moved to comment in a leader on the passing of the 32,000-ton liner.

It said that no real regret needed to be caused by the event because she had survived the normal life of a great passenger vessel. It added that the name of Mauretania would rank deservedly with those of the most famous British clippers, which were still honoured "whenever men speak of fine ships".



The Mauretania-inspired hotel that may rise near Birmingham's airport

Watchdog complaint 'upheld'

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

THE first complaint made to the Press Council by a newspaper ombudsman against another national title has been partly upheld.

Mr Ken Donlan, ombudsman at *The Sun*, complained that *The Independent* magazine had published an inaccurate item which reflected on his conduct as an ombudsman without seeking his views.

The offer to publish a letter from him was not an adequate remedy, Mr Donlan said. His complaint was partly upheld because of *The Independent*'s five-week delay in offering to print a letter which the Press Council said would have been an adequate remedy at the right time, but the offer did not come at the right time.

The council said Mr Donlan was entitled to an opportunity to respond to an item by Weasel, *The Independent*'s diarist, which quoted and added to a correspondent's criticism of Mr Donlan.

"It was largely comment, but included a significant misstatement of fact which he was anxious to correct... *The Independent* magazine's handling of the matter was dilatory", the council said.

Television Licence Fee Increase

Television licence fees were increased with effect from 1 April 1990. The new fees are £24.00 for black and white and £71.00 for colour.

Licencees who use the Direct Debit or Credit Card schemes to pay for their licence should note the following:

Annual payment by Direct Debit or Credit Card

Your next licence will be issued at the new rate. Consequently your account will be debited with the appropriate amount on or immediately after the first day of the month following that in which your current licence expires.

Monthly instalments by Direct Debit

1. If your current licence expires at the end of March 1991 then the monthly instalment will now be one tenth of the new fee, ie £24.00 per month for a black and white licence or £71.00 per month for a colour licence.

2. If you have been paying monthly instalments towards your next licence based on the old fee, then on the last day of the month in which your current licence expires, your account will be debited with an amount equal to the difference between the old and new fees, ie £2.00 for black and white or £5.00 for colour. Thereafter instalments will be based on the new fee as in '1' above.

Quarterly instalments by Direct Debit

Premium Scheme

When your current colour licence expires, your quarterly instalments towards your next licence will be based on the new fee, ie £19.00 (£17.75 plus £1.25 premium payment) per quarter.

Standard Scheme

1. If your current colour licence expires between now and the end of June this year, your instalments (towards your next licence) have been based on the old fee. Consequently, your next instalment will then be 1/4 of the new fee, ie £17.75 per quarter.

2. If your licence expires between July and the last day of September this year, the same situation as that depicted on '1' above applies except that the next (catch-up) instalment will be £19.00.

3. If your licence expires between October and the last day of December this year, your instalments will now be based solely on the new fee, ie £17.75 per quarter.

4. If your licence expires between January and March next year the next (final) instalment towards your current licence will be at the old rate, ie £16.50. Thereafter, instalments will be at the new rate, ie £17.75 per quarter.



National TV Licence
Records Office
Bristol BS98 1TL

Temporary centres considered to reduce jail overcrowding

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs Correspondent

EMERGENCY plans to reduce dangerously high levels of overcrowding in some jails after the riot at Strangeways prison, Manchester, were being considered by the Home Office yesterday.

Alternatives being mooted include the conversion of several military camps into temporary jails — an option taken up during the last prison riots in 1986 — or the use of young offender institutions.

Of the two, the latter is the more likely as the Home Office was already planning to upgrade at least one institution into an adult prison to reduce overcrowding in prisons like Strangeways.

Reduced use of custody for young offenders has meant there are now over 1,000 empty beds in those centres.

Prison Department officials know they have to move fast to avert possible new outbreaks of disorder in jails to which former Strangeways inmates

have been sent. With the department's northern region already desperately short of accommodation, many of the 1,600 inmates transferred from Strangeways since the riot began last Sunday have had to be sent to jails in the South, hundreds of miles from their families.

The position of transferred remand inmates is seen as particularly worrying, given their entitlement to more frequent family visits and their need to attend court regularly.

"Whatever the department does it's got to be bold and quick," Mr Chris Scott, vice-chairman of the Prison Governors' Association, said.

Describing the situation as "exceedingly dangerous", he added: "The cardinal rule for the peaceful running of a prison is don't interfere with inmates' visits or mail."

Mr Scott said the incident earlier this week at Durham jail, where a prison officer was held hostage by inmates, and

other less serious disorders which had occurred over the past few days showed how volatile inmates might be following the Strangeways riot.

The Prison Reform Trust said the relocation of "traumatized and anxious" inmates hundreds of miles from their relatives had presented officials with a "severe problem".

A spokesman said: "We would ask magistrates to do all they can to ease the position by reducing custodial remands to the safest minimum."

Meanwhile, new fears were voiced by union and management officials yesterday that Britain's jails could be facing renewed industrial unrest over prison officers' demands for increased manning.

Mr John Sutcliffe, a member of the Prison Officers' Association's national executive, said officers had "reached the end of their tolerance" and pointed out that the union already had a mandate to ballot members on possible industrial

action. He claimed that the scale of the manning problem was highlighted by the fact that officers had to be called from prisons in London and Devon to help to deal with the rioting at Manchester.

The union told the department on Thursday that another 1,000 officers were needed. Some 3,000 extra officers have been recruited since 1987 when the union agreed that overtime should be phased out by March 31, 1992. The POA, however, says those increased numbers have not proved sufficient.

Prison authorities yesterday adopted the tactic used by the US Marines to drive General Noriega from the Vatican Embassy in Panama City to try to end the Strangeways siege (Peter Davenport and Ronald Faux write).

They directed loud and constant pop music at the core of hardline prisoners still holding out on the shattered roof of the prison. Its immediate effect was to drown out the voice of Paul Taylor, the spokesman for the prisoners, who spent

much of yesterday attempting to make an address from the roof.

Whether it was some kind of psychological warfare intended to have further demoralizing effect was unclear, but shortly afterwards the police helicopter returned hovering above the roof and sounding its own loud, high-pitched claxon. There was, however, little obvious progress towards bringing the siege to an end.

After five days of almost continual negotiating, it was becoming clear last night that the remaining group of inmates, numbering between 18 and 30, would not be willingly dislodged.

Although the attempts by the authorities to secure a peaceful conclusion to the siege have steadily reduced the numbers holding out, the situation yesterday appeared deadlocked with the last two men having surrendered on Thursday morning.

The options open to the governor, Mr Brendan O'Friel, seem increasingly to

leave the use of force as the only alternative.

Mr O'Friel, who has preferred to rely on the skills of teams of trained negotiators to resolve the confrontation, has made it clear, however, that he would not rule out any option.

Hundreds of prison officers and police riot squads remain on standby but the authorities are reluctant to discuss tactics for fear of alerting the prisoners, who are thought to be monitoring radio news broadcasts.

On successive days official spokesmen and independent observers have repeatedly expressed optimism that the final hours of the siege were at hand.

Yesterday, up to 18 prisoners leapt from the roof of A Block, occasionally calling to friends and supporters, despite official insistence that they had run out of food, passing biscuits and drinks among themselves.

Other inmates were said to be elsewhere within the prison.

Teachers urged to give own children a state education

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

THE leader of the heads of Britain's secondary schools yesterday challenged teachers to demonstrate the courage of their convictions by sending their children to state schools.

Mr John Horn, president of the Secondary Heads Association, told its annual conference in Manchester that a worrying proportion of state school teachers were having their own children educated in the private sector.

Although he was unable to provide figures, Mr Horn, headmaster of Oset School, a comprehensive near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, said that some teachers at his school were having their children privately educated.

He said: "We need the

wholehearted commitment of each and every person involved in the delivery of state education in this country.

"Only when all concerned with the state system actually support it, will the public truly believe it can provide the best for all."

"Who buys Surf from a salesman who uses Persil and who buys a Rover from a salesman driving a Saab?"

Mr Horn said that some teachers faced a genuine dilemma in some parts of the country where standards were low. However, he attacked Conservative-controlled Bradford council for offering newly recruited teachers help with private school fees. It showed the "ultimate lack of

confidence" in the system for which the council was responsible. Even worse was the attitude of politicians and leaders of society who shunned state education.

"If Prince William and Prince Henry together with the sons and daughters and grandchildren of ministers, MPs, civil servants and local politicians were all destined for their local comprehensive then the state-maintained education system would be dramatically improved within a very short time," he said.

Mr Horn suggested that ministers should at least spend some time "work shadowing" teachers to see for themselves what happened in state schools. He extended a personal invitation to Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to come to help run his school.

Any attempt by councils whose community charge has been "capped" to make savings by cutting education budgets would be disastrous for pupils, Mr Horn said.

He told the conference that there was "no fat" in school budgets and the consequence of capping would be that teachers would lose their jobs and standards of education would suffer.

Mr John Sutton, general secretary, said: "The unfortunate thing is that children are being used as political footballs in a game being played between local and national government."

"Some local authorities are making the reductions in the most high profile way possible in order to make their political point."

Specialist education pioneered in Hungary to help handicapped children should be more easily available in Britain, Mr Alan Howarth, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

Mr Howarth said that conductive education should be one of a number of options available to parents of handicapped children. Speaking after a visit to the Birmingham Institute of Conductive Education, Mr Howarth said: "The reports of children's progress at the Peto Institute in Budapest are impressive."

"Those parents who have, often at great personal cost, taken their children there have demonstrated a genuine demand which will continue into the foreseeable future."

Private schools seek fees top-up

By David Tytler, Education Editor

INDEPENDENT schools are having to find extra ways to meet rising costs which are no longer covered by fees paid by parents, according to a report published yesterday. Many schools now let out their buildings and arrange summer schools for foreign students.

Rising costs are due largely to increasing teacher salaries, which are about 1 per cent above those paid in state schools, accounting for about three-quarters of a school's budget.

On average, teacher salaries cost £1,785 a pupil in senior boarding schools, £1,344 in day schools, £1,696 in preparatory boarding, £1,069 in day schools. Classroom teachers are paid from about £10,000 a year to £15,000 a year.

The survey of 200 independent schools from MacIntyre Hudson, the accountants for many fee-paying schools, shows that while the costs for pupils have risen fees are falling behind.

Pupils at senior boarding schools in 1988/89 cost on average £4,313.4 the previous year. Fees are about £7,000 a year. Day school costs rose by £240 to £2,337; boarding prep schools went up £428 to £4,413.

Only the senior boarding schools have put up fees to match costs, fees rising 73 per

cent since 1983 compared to a cost rise of 72 per cent. The figures for day schools are 51 per cent and 47 per cent; preparatory boarding, 93 per cent and 99 per cent; preparatory day, 112 per cent and 114 per cent.

Mr Noble Hanlon, who wrote the report, said: "The figures show that schools are trying very hard not to put all their increased costs on the parents."

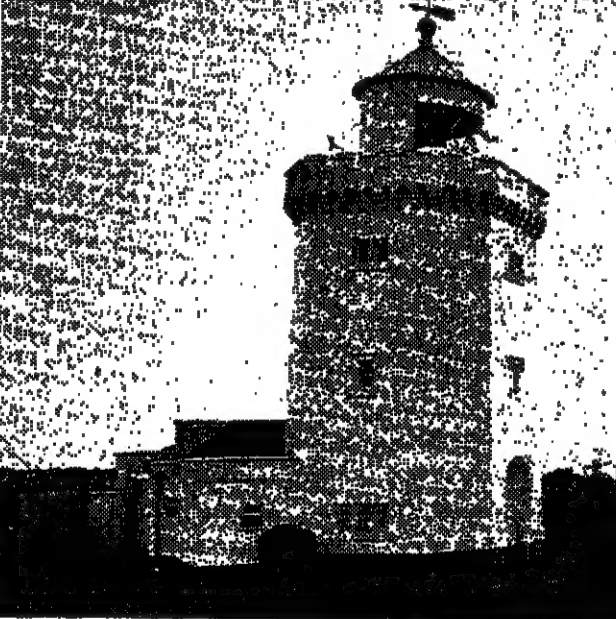
A scheme to reduce the factual content of A levels in favour of training in personal and vocational skills has won the backing of the Government's two principal advisory bodies on the School Curriculum (Douglas Broom writes). The National Curriculum Council and the School Examinations and Assessment Council, in unpublished reports, have agreed that sixth-form students should be required to study fewer facts.

The proposal echoes that of the Higginson committee, whose recommendations to scrap the existing three-subject A-level system and substitute a five-subject sixth form syllabus was rejected by ministers two years ago.

As the new scheme commands the support of the two bodies set up to oversee the Government's education reform programme it will be much harder for ministers to reject it this time.



Mr James Cooper of the National Trust giving a shine to the South Foreland Light



Lighthouse takes off the wraps

THE South Foreland Lighthouse overlooking the notorious Goodwin Sands opens to the public today for the first time. It was built on the Kent coast near Dover in 1850 to warn ships of the dangers of the Goodwins.

It ended its operations 18 months ago and was bought by the National Trust from Trinity House for about £300,000.

It will be opened for the National Trust today by Captain Malcolm Edge, Deputy Master of Trinity House, and can be visited from 2-6pm every Saturday until October.

Drivers set off in race to Peking

By Graham Rock

SEVENTY vehicles were setting off from Marble Arch, central London, today for a 9,000-mile journey from London to Peking.

One early hurdle for the organizers of the "motoring challenge", Voyages Jules Verne, has been a sudden decision by the Russians supplying fuel for the vehicles to increase the price by 9,000 per cent. The company was originally quoted of 40 kopecks a gallon but is now being charged 3 roubles 60 kopecks.

The problem is compounded by an expected strike in the Russian petrol industry so fuel will have to be imported for the Soviet leg.

However, Mr Philip Monell, managing director of Voyages Jules Verne, said at a press conference yesterday that after protracted negotiations over many years both the Russian and Chinese authorities were fully behind the project. "It would have been easy for them to pull the plug, but they are very enthusiastic and the Russians have created a cordon sanitaire, using 1,500 police, through Georgia and Azerbaijan."

Signor Luigi Barzini, whose grandfather was co-winner of the Peking to Paris race in 1907, was present yesterday and he saluted the drivers, who, he said, were matching the original spirit of the race.

Baron Guy de Wismes, who had planned to drive a London taxi, had a last-minute set-back when the company preparing his vehicle ran into financial difficulties. The Frenchman instead acquired a Lamborghini to attempt the 9,162 miles.

More than a dozen vehicles will travel on to Hong Kong and one driver, Senhor Jose Lisboa, is even more ambitious.

He hopes to earn a place in the Guinness Book of Records by motoring from Sagres, on the south-western tip of Portugal, joining the tour in Paris, and after Hong Kong continuing to Macao.

Accompanying Mr Lisboa are two South American musicians, and the trio plan to entertain participants and spectators en route.

Relaxation of restrictions by the Mongolian authorities has allowed Voyages Jules Verne to stage a London to New York Motor Challenge next summer via Berlin, Moscow, Siberia, Alaska and Canada.

Football club was 'unfair' to staff

CELTIIC Football Club was criticized by an industrial tribunal yesterday for the "oppressive way" it dealt with employees after increasing workers' hours without a corresponding pay rise.

However, the Glasgow tribunal rejected a claim of unfair dismissal by a ground maintenance worker, Mr Joseph Conner, because he accepted the new conditions at the time they were imposed — however crudely the changes were effected.

The tribunal said if he had left because of the changes at the time they were enforced, it is difficult to see how his claim could have failed.

Mr Conner, aged 29, of Springboigt, Glasgow, was said to have reluctantly agreed to the new working practices but had then reverted to the old system, taken unauthorized time off, and been dismissed.

Church pay plan

A report to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on Monday will propose that ministers' stipends should be related to incomes produced by their parishes. It says the present minimum is £10,863 and a maximum, but salaries between £13,670 and £14,069 could be paid where congregations raised £48,000 to £53,000.

Food unit fear

The food science and nutrition department at King's College Medical School, in south-east London, faces closure under plans involving expansion in other areas, it was claimed yesterday. Dr Peter Emery, college secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said work on food safety was at risk.

Cards plea

Officials at the Royal Marsden Hospital have asked the public to stop sending get-well cards to Craig Shegird, of Carshalton, Surrey, because they are still being inundated with them five months after the 10-year-old cancer patient entered the Guinness Book of Records for receiving the most cards, after five million.

Teenage crime

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, has called for tighter controls on young offenders after two boys aged 14 and 16 went on a crime spree, stealing goods worth £100,000 while on bail.

Last-minute holidays in short supply

By Tom Giles

PROSPECTS of booking a last-minute spring holiday abroad seemed slender yesterday as airlines and tour operators reported greater demand for fewer holidays.

Despite pessimistic forecasts from many agents after a slump in package holidays last summer, there have been record Easter bookings to the Caribbean, the Canaries and the US.

The Association of British Travel Agents said tour companies had "over-compensated" for high interest rates by cutting packages from 12

million to 10 million at the end of last year. That could cause a shortage of summer holidays.

"There is not a lot of room for manoeuvre in the holiday business and they got their fingers burned last year," Mr Keith Betton, ABTA's spokesman, said. He attributed the strength of the market to high interest rates increasing the incomes of those without mortgages.

Intasun, one of Britain's largest tour companies, which cut 500,000 holidays last year, has reported a "sell-out" Easter with 50,000 holiday-makers expected to fly out during the

holiday period. "Over the last few weeks it has been virtually impossible to find a seat anywhere and relying on a late booking could be very risky," Mr Roger Heaps, Intasun's managing director, said.

Thomson's, which is offering one million fewer holidays this year, said that 97 per cent of its aircraft seats were filled for April.

Over 80,000 people are due to fly out of Manchester Airport next weekend despite a 3 per cent drop in flights compared to last spring. Staff at Heathrow are preparing for a daily onslaught of 110,000 holidaymakers

as the airport predicted its busiest-ever Easter.

Gatewick Airport said its passenger numbers were up 20 per cent on last year with 250,000 expected to fly out over the Easter weekend.

British Airways said yesterday that it would be laying on 18 extra shuttle flights from Heathrow to Belfast over the holiday weekend because of record demand.

But the glut of foreign holidays is likely to provide little relief for the roads. The Automobile Association has already predicted Bank holiday "chaos" in several black-spots.

Scots gold mine on way

By Kerry Gill

ONLY yards away from a Scottish Highland tunnel, where 18th-century miners toiled in their search for lead, lies a modest fortune in gold ready to be extracted by the autumn of 1991.

After five years of investigations in west Perthshire, prospectors are confident that gold can be mined on a sound commercial basis from a site four miles up the Cononish Valley near the village of Tyndrum.

Ennex International, the Dublin-based company whose employees have tunnelled more than 900 metres into the

hillsides, hopes to extract millions of pounds worth of gold in the coming decade.

Ironically, the gold, and even greater quantities of silver, has been discovered in the same area where local miners prospected for lead during the 1750s. However, Mr John Kelly, Ennex's chief mining engineer, said the miners of yesterday would never have noticed the gold because it is so fine.

Only modern analytical methods have enabled the company to pinpoint the deposits of gold and silver, but 20th-century technology is ex-

pected to produce a yield worth £75 million.

Once full production begins, almost 100 people will be employed in Scotland's most unlikely new industry with many more indirect jobs created in the area. The company hopes to submit its planning application within the next eight months, to allow production to start before the end of next year.

Mr David Coyle, of Ennex, said there was potential for more mining operations in the gold-bearing belt that crosses Scotland to a point near Aberfeldy, east of Loch Tay.

LIQUIDATION AUCTION
PERSIAN & EASTERN
CARPETS RUGS & RUNNERS
USED IN SECURING LOAN, NOW IN DEFAULT, AND ORDERED
TO BE LIQUIDATED PIECE BY PIECE.
DISPOSAL FOR IMMEDIATE CASH
TOMORROW SUNDAY at 4.00 PM
VIEWING FROM 3.00 PM
AT THE SALEROOM: A. WELLSLEY BRISCOE & PINES, LTD.
SPECIALIST STOCK LIQUIDATORS, VALUERS AND ARBITRATORS
BOXBY PLACE, FULHAM, LONDON SW6.
Tel: 01-881 8558 Fax: 01-881 4282
Directions: Travelling west along Old Brompton Road take the first turning left after
West Brompton tube station (beyond Road 114) then left again into Boxby Place.
TERMS: CASH, CASH AND ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS
SHIPPING FACILITIES AVAILABLE

FREE CASIO MINI COLOUR TV

This pocket-sized Casio colour TV could soon be yours.

Its pictures are crisp and clear, just like the sound quality. And though the Casio 400 is one of the world's most compact TVs, it can work off batteries, the mains or your car battery, tune to stations automatically and be connected to your video.

All we ask is that you and your partner attend a Barratt presentation at one of our Sales Centres in England, Scotland or Wales.

There you'll discover the benefits of timeshare and why we call it Holiday Ownership, which, after all, is what it really is. Of course you'll be under no obligation to purchase, but we think you may be tempted!

Visitors to our Sales Centres have the reassurance of the Barratt Charter which provides absolute peace of mind.

To arrange an appointment, call us now FREE on: **0800 39 31 39**
Mon. to Fri. 9am-7pm, Weekends 10am-5pm

BARRATT International RESORTS

Claiming your colour television: To qualify you must be over 21, in full-time employment unless retired, and your partner must attend for the full length of the sales presentation. Student offers are not eligible. These conditions can only be varied by special arrangement.

You must bring this advertisement with you. One gift per couple. We reserve the right to select a limited number of equal value if this one is not available.

This offer is valid only on the day of your first visit and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. We apologise to those who do not meet our conditions of eligibility.

A COMPANY OF BARRATT DEVELOPMENT

£1bn funding with government Bill may save rail link

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

THE Government is considering assuming responsibility for piloting legislation for the controversial £3.5 billion Channel tunnel rail link through Parliament in the form of a hybrid Bill, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Bill is expected to include a substantial amount of public funding, ostensibly for improved commuter services in Kent, which will share the line between Folkestone and King's Cross with the international services, effectively making the 68-mile rail link financially viable.

Abandonment of the proposed private Bill would remove uncertainty over the project, provide greater flexibility in introducing the measure into the legislative timetable, and all but guarantee its passage through Parliament.

Treasury opposition to the proposed subsidy, thought to be about £1 billion, would have to be overturned by the Cabinet, but without a change in legislative strategy and the infusion of public money, the high-speed rail link is dead, sources say.

The Government's reconsideration of legislative tactics

and the need for a public subsidy follow submissions by British Rail, Trafalgar House and BICC, the three partners that will build and operate the link, of proposals for routing the inter-continental trains into central London from Swanley, Kent.

An earlier proposal to route the trains into King's Cross in an 18-mile tunnel under south-east London were abandoned in November because of rising construction costs, although BR's existing preferred route from Swanley to Folkestone remains intact.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, is not expected to announce the final route until next month. However, it is understood that the alignment runs entirely along existing rail corridors, before descending into a tunnel under the Thames and the City of London, and arriving at King's Cross.

The existing main rail corridors go from Swanley to Chislehurst, Hither Green, New Cross, London Bridge and Charing Cross; and from Swanley to Bromley, Beckenham, Brixton and Victoria, with a loop from Bromley to

Catford, Elephant and Castle, and Blackfriars.

BR, Trafalgar House and BICC have proposed two routes into King's Cross, one involving construction of a sub-surface junction at Warwick Gardens, Peckham, for access to Waterloo.

Both options are said to involve the demolition of considerably less property than the previous tunnel option, although widening existing rail corridors will result in some loss of garden space, likely to be compensated for by "noise protection".

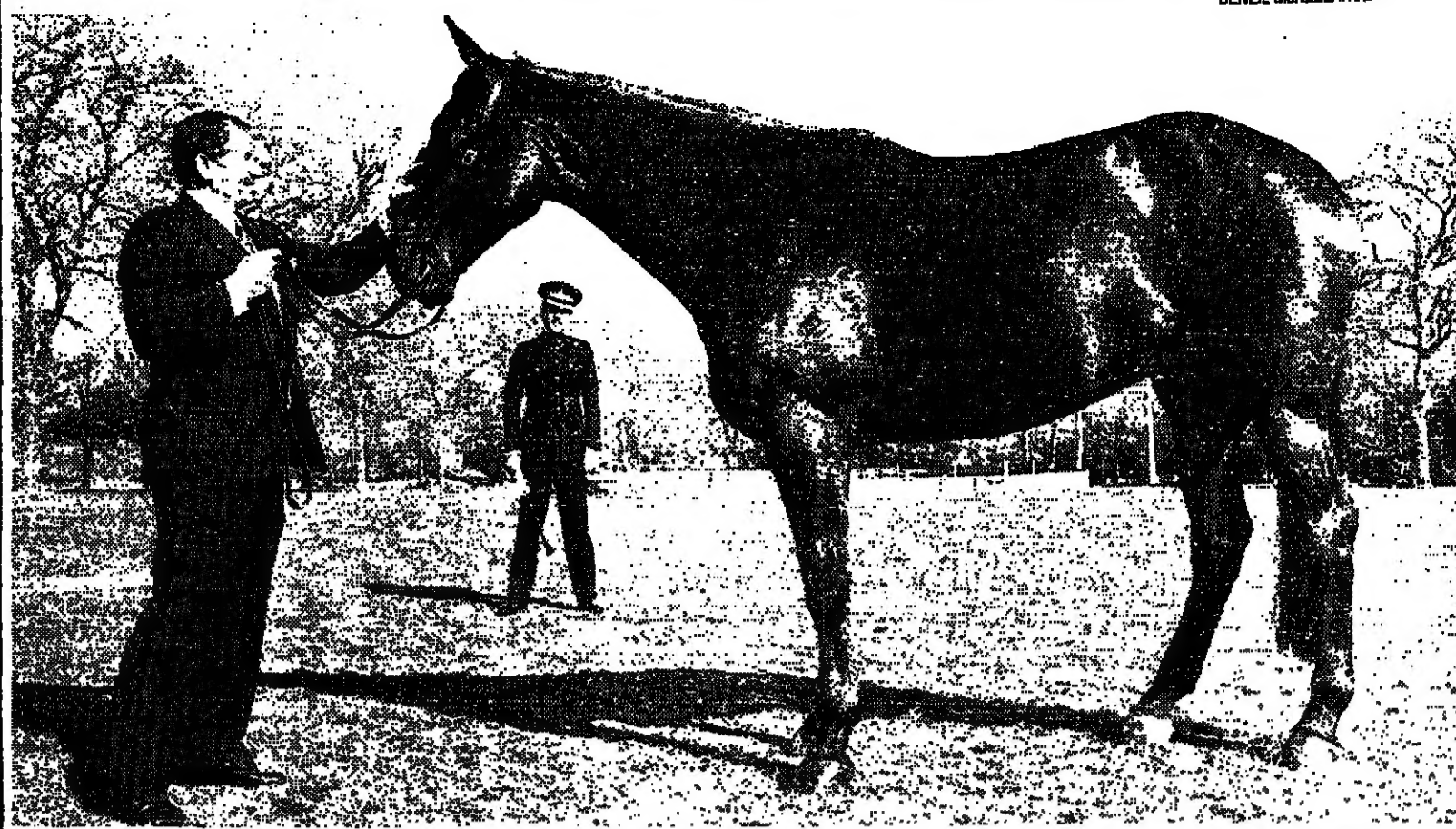
BR's private-sector partners are confident of "something around an 18 per cent return on investment in the scheme."

Section 42 of the 1987 Channel Tunnel Act prohibits any form of subsidy for international rail services, so the Government will effectively have to "launder" the required funds through BR's Public Service Obligation, the annual subsidy, without amending existing legislation.

Government subsidy would bring improvement to services for Kent commuters said to be "unachievable by any other means".

Well adjusted start to life in the cavalry

DENZIL MCNEELANCE



Mr Monty Roberts and Lt Col Gordon Birdwood, commanding officer of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, with Port Stanley

By Alan Hamilton

GELDING he may be, but Port Stanley is still a real gentleman. So good-natured and trusting, his friends say, could it be because he is one of the few members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces ever to be trained, not by harking and punishment, but by kindness? Or is it because he has seen his analyst? Port Stanley, a five-year old Irish crossbred in training with the Household Cavalry, is the product

of an unusual experiment. He has been exposed to the attentions of a Californian psychologist.

Mr Monty Roberts, who has been training horses and studying the equine mind on the West Coast since he was three years old, was summoned to Windsor by the Queen last year when she heard of his pioneering method of getting a horse to accept a human on its back for the first time. While instructing some of the Duke of Edinburgh's polo ponies and a chase filly for Queen Elizabeth the

Queen Mother, he was seen by a cavalry corporal-major, who decided to apply the Roberts approach to the year's intake of 12 new recruits. Mr Roberts called at Hyde Park Barracks yesterday to inspect progress. The cavalry professed themselves well satisfied. "I apply the Gorbachov thought pattern to the horse," Mr Roberts explained. "Turn them loose. Let them be free. Never say, 'You must.' He claims he can achieve in a day what takes up to three weeks by conventional training methods."

Barristers to fight rule on employment

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

THE Bar Council may be taken to court by four barristers if it is threatening to disbar because they have gone into employment with accountancy firms.

The barristers, who have until April 30 to disbar themselves or face "disciplinary action" by the Bar Council, are also raising the matter of their professional body's action with the Lord Chancellor.

The issue is being seen as an important test case with implications for 500 to 600 other barristers employed by firms of solicitors and accountants

or in commerce and industry. One of the four, Mr Reginald Nock, a leading tax barrister who last year joined Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, said the Bar Council's action might well be a restraint of trade.

The group (three of whom are with accountants, one with a VAT consultancy firm) is considering a range of legal options, including judicial review of the Bar Council's action; or legal proceedings under the terms of the Fair Trading Act.

Mr Nock said they were determined to fight the issue. "My firm personally does not care if I can call myself a barrister or not but it is important to display solidarity over this. If the Bar is successful against us, they will obviously chase up many more."

The Bar Council action put "all sorts of barristers — those working in bank trustee departments, with licensed conveyancers or with solicitors — under threat".

Under the Bar's rules, employed barristers can only provide legal advice to the firm they work in and its employees. They are not allowed to give legal advice to clients.

Mr Nock said: "They are saying if I give any form of legal advice, which includes tax advice, to partners of the firm, or managers of the firm, and that advice may accrue directly or indirectly for the benefit of the firm, then I am breaking the rules."

This meant he was not allowed, as an employed barrister (rather than one in private practice) to represent any client, anywhere. "If you take a VAT tribunal, for instance, anyone under the tribunal's rules can appear to represent a client, except me, as an employed barrister."

The four, who are seeking further details from the Bar Council, also intend to raise the matter with the Lord Chancellor. "We may seek him to take up the issue with the Bar."

"If what the Bar is doing is indirectly to frustrate the whole purpose of his legal reforms, he won't be too pleased."

A Bar Council working party under Mr Justice Mummery is looking at the question of employed barristers and is expected to report in about two months.

Solicitors form new grouping

By Frances Gibb

THE largest national law group in Britain has been created with the link-up of the big City solicitors' practice, Norton Rose, and the six-firm regional network known as the M5 Group.

The group, which will be about half the size of the Crown Prosecution Service, will have more than 800 lawyers, including 261 partners, and a total of 2,470 staff.

Members of the Norton Rose M5 Group alliance will operate independently on behalf of their own clients, but each firm will contribute to the costs of a new service company, in Birmingham, based on the existing umbrella company for the M5 Group.

This will co-ordinate activities such as training, recruitment and technology systems and will form a strategy for the group as a whole and promote it.

Mr Tony Kay, managing partner of Norton Rose, said that the formal association would give the firms advantages in terms of serving clients, and in recruitment.

British Coal announced yesterday that its 125-staff legal services department is to merge from May 1 with Nabarro Nathanson, one of the country's largest law firms, with more than 600 legal and other staff. British Coal will keep 10 in-house legal staff to deal with issues "at the heart of the industry".

Red lion returns to boost British eggs

By Michael Horasby, Agriculture Correspondent

After 22 years in retirement, the "little red lion" is to return in a blaze of culinary patriotism on Monday as part of a £1 million campaign to boost sales of the salmonella-be-deviled British egg.

The beast's last starring role was with Tony Hancock in the "Go to work on an egg" TV commercials of the late 1960s. Its image will reappear not on the eggs themselves, as before, but on egg boxes and packs, above the word "British" in bold blue letters.

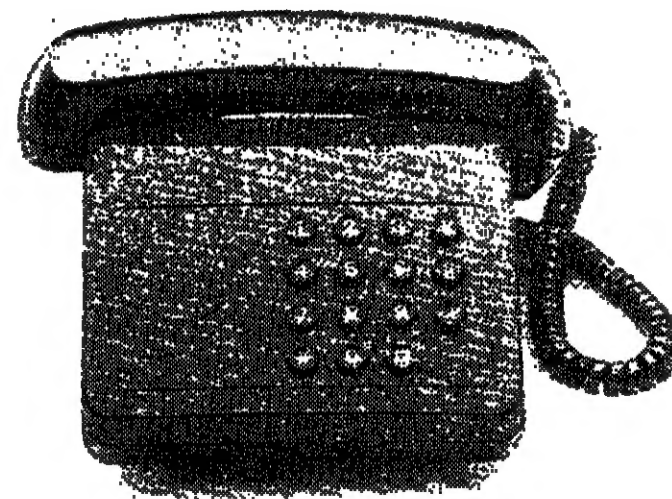
"The lion mark is the consumer's assurance that the eggs inside the box are produced under stringent UK hygiene legislation," Mr John Coles, chairman of the British



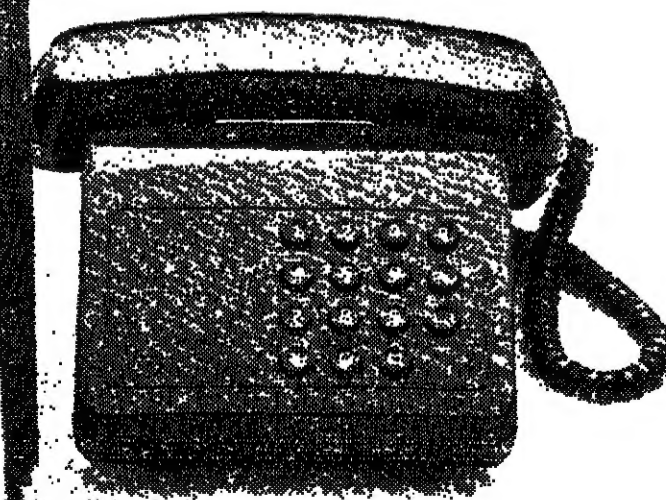
Egg Industry Council, said. Only producers belonging to the council, which accounts for about 75 per cent of output, can use the trademark.

The scheme is designed to distinguish home-produced from foreign eggs and halt a long-term decline in sales.

If you're disabled, it's not easy to use.



If you're disabled, it's easy to use.



75% of disabled people in this country use the telephone.

Yet the figure could be higher.

Our 'Guide to equipment and services for disabled customers' will show you how.

Not only is it full of ideas that can make a non-user a user.

It has helpful suggestions for existing users too. Plus useful information like how to keep phone costs down.

If you're disabled or you know someone

who is, send off or call free for the guide today. You won't regret it.

CALL FREE 0800 444 122 ANYTIME

Please send me a free British Telecom Disabled Customer Information Pack

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss Initials Surname

Tel. Code No.

Address

Postcode

To British Telecom, Action for Disabled Customers,

FREEPOST BS3333, Bristol BS1 6GZ. No stamp needed.

British
TELECOM
It's you we answer to

Newcomers take exception to the realities of rural life

Farmers on the retreat as vocal townies move in

WHO would want to live next to a pigsty? Hungry pigs are the noisiest of neighbours, and when the wind is in the wrong direction the smell can be more resonant than the squealing.

Breeders have worked for centuries to mould their animals to desired standards of food-conversion and leanness, but have paid little attention to producing the dulcet pig. As for the fragrant one, it is probably beyond the reach of science.

So anyone moving to a house near a pig unit should know what to expect. But one by-product of the transformation of many villages from self-contained agricultural communities to commuter suburbs has been to bring in many newcomers who never suspected that a pigsty might be noisy.

Others are disillusioned to find that cows are incontinent, or that poultry wake up at the crack of dawn.

Many "incomers" are affronted if farm animals fail to conform to the neighbourly standards they set themselves. It is a growing source of village conflict between new residents and farmers.

Disputes are one reason why an increasing number of farmers are considering leaving their traditional farmsteads and moving to modern buildings out of the way of the neighbours.

Mr Edwin Mount has had enough of being plagued by "roosters" — his name for the vocal outsiders who have been at the forefront of protest against the piggery which has been operating at Manor Farm, in the village of Waltham on the Wolds, Leicestershire, for more than 30 years. The village is only 10 miles from Grantham station, which puts it comfortably within the London commuter belt for today's businessmen.

Mr Mount's 500 pigs live only 200 yards from the village's shops, and the site is so cramped that big livestock lorries cannot get in and out. When a load of pigs is sent

At Lichfield magistrates' court on Monday, a Staffordshire farmer faces a fine of up to £2,000 or six months in prison if he fails to comply with a district council order to "abate" the smell of the "environmentally friendly" manure he uses.

Other farmers are moving out of their village farmyards to more isolated spots as rivalries between townies and the agricultural community threaten to resurface in a new and more aggressive form. George Hill investigates

away, they have to be brought out on a trailer, and transferred in the village street.

"It is inconvenient for everyone, although most people apart from the 'roosters' accept that we do our best to minimize the nuisance," Mr Mount says. "So when I wanted to expand I thought it really wasn't politic putting up a new piggery so near the middle of the village. We asked the planning authorities to come and advise us, and they suggested we apply for permission to relocate."

There was a shortage of low-cost starter homes locally, and it was suggested that the cost of the move could be met by building 15 homes on the site of the 100-year old farm. A petition in support of the homes plan was signed by 120 longstanding inhabitants.

The newcomers, however, regarded modern housing as a prospect even more unattractive than the pigs. Influential voices were raised in opposition.

A revised plan was prepared, taking account of reservations made by the highways authority, but the planners raised fresh objections. The revised plan is now going to appeal.

To the new influx of inhabitants the countryside is not a working environment, but a haven of peace and beauty away from the modern world — and they want to keep it that way. "In the village where I farm, everybody has given up dairy farming, because it creates too much aggro with neighbours who complain about the cows mooing in the early morning," Mr Simon

Kinnersley, whose 500-acre farm is only six miles from Bristol, says.

"But I must admit farmers have been at fault in some ways, and we need to adapt. You can't run the grain dryer all night, or leave a foot of mud on the road, because people won't have it."

Mr Ralph Elston, who has a 60-acre farm near Crediton, Devon, has decided to move his farmstead away from the 100-house estate which has sprung up at his gate and relocate operations in the middle of his land.

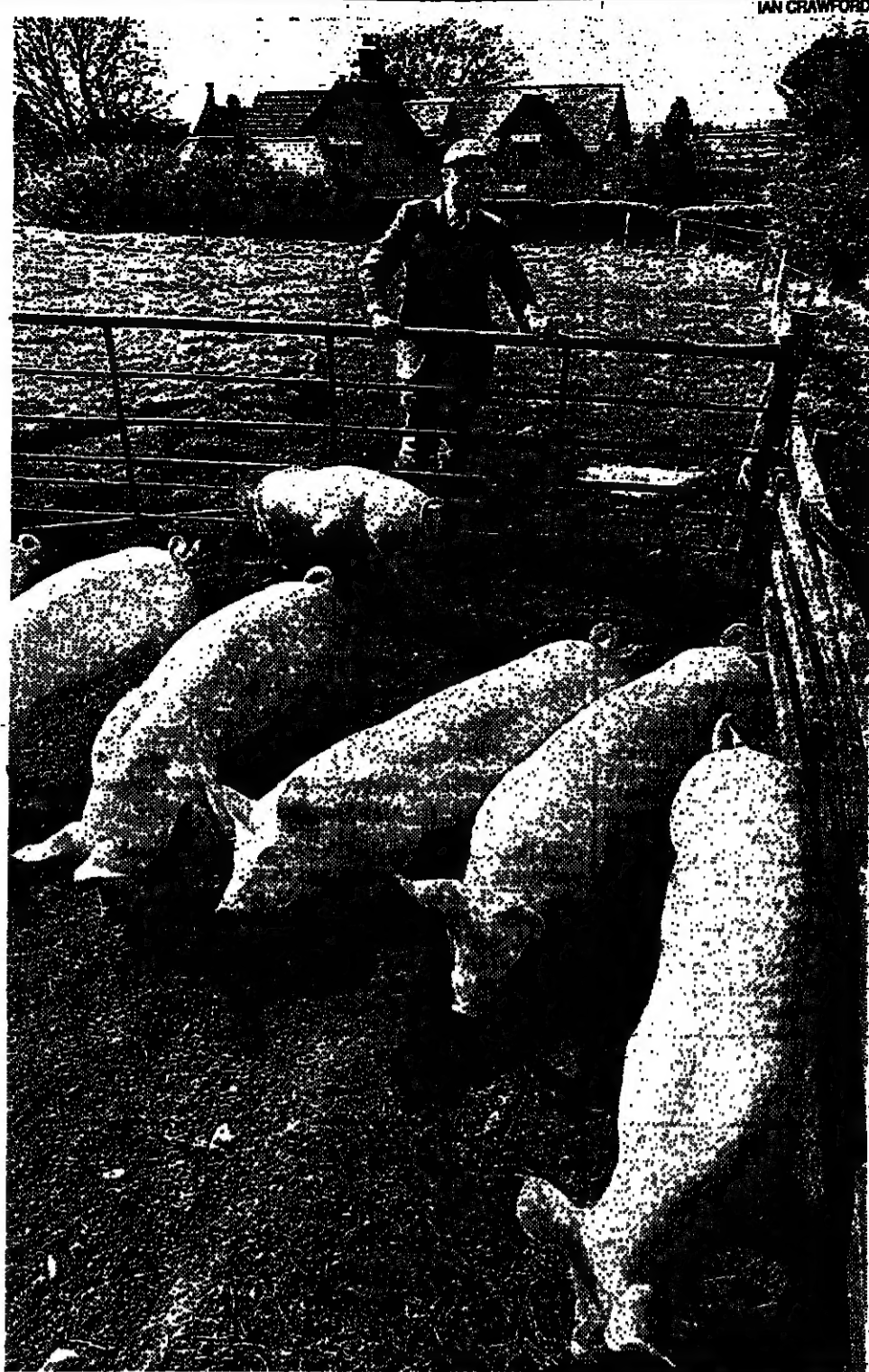
"I work alone, and sometimes I am still out on the tractor as late as midnight. Then I get phone calls to say I am keeping the callers awake. Sometimes the calls are anonymous, and abusive."

Objectors to agricultural mess and noise point out that the industry has become more mechanised.

Mechanical trimming of hedgerows saves labour, but shatters the illusion that one might find John Constable with his easel under the next pollard-oak. Intensive methods of keeping livestock generate rivers of slurry, far more vicious than the less potent traditional mix of straw and dung, readily recycled back into the soil.

"People moving into the country don't necessarily appreciate that a community cannot stand still — it must change," Mr Roy John, planning adviser to the Country Landowners' Association, says.

Mr John and other people with an overview of planning issues have the impression



Mr Edwin Mount with some of the pigs that have irked his neighbours. He wants to move the animals out of the village but finding a compromise acceptable to all is proving difficult

that an increasing number of farmers are choosing to move their farmsteads out of villages. If the existing buildings can be turned into housing, or the site can be redeveloped, the move can make irresistible financial sense.

Mr Kinnersley foresees even more drastic changes to the countryside as friction between commuter-belt farm-

ers and the new breed of villagers intensifies.

"One of the attractions of farming is that it is a nice way of life. If farmers get too much friction, they may just chuck it in. There is a glut of food production in Europe. Farmers are already being subsidized just for keeping their land idle. I wouldn't be surprised if most of the farmland

in commuter areas was eventually managed as parkland."

Even the "roosters" might find that prospect faintly chilling. Having won the battle for the countryside, the newcomers might grow nostalgic for the dust and clatter of the combine harvester, the grunt of the foraging sow, even for the fragrance of the drying cowpat.

Scots demand wider use of fishing curbs

By Kerry Gill

FISHERMEN operating off the west of Scotland have demanded the enforcement of an exclusion zone stretching from Cape Wrath to the Mull of Kintyre to protect stocks from east coast vessels hit by stringent quota restrictions.

Men of the relatively small western fleet fear that the North Sea quota cuts in haddock and cod will result in the advanced east coast vessels plundering their waters in an effort to remain economically viable. The newly-

formed West Coast Fisheries Action Group, made up of all the local fishery associations in the west, is to press the Government to order an exclusion zone every weekend during the summer, to conserve local fishing.

If the Government agrees, the zone would cover a large area from the north of Scotland across to the Mull of Lewis, south through the Minch to the Mull of Kintyre, and six miles out from the Western Isles.

The formation of the action group, which overcame historic rivalries between local fisheries, is seen as a sign of the fishermen's concern that their livelihood could be destroyed by the big east coast fleet. There are only 126 western vessels over 80 ft, but there are several hundred operating off north-east Scotland.

A meeting is expected to be held with Mr John Gasparr, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and his Scottish counterpart, Lord Sanderson, within the coming few weeks. The group has also won the backing of local authorities.

Mr Angus Graham, chairman of the action group, said it would seek talks with the Scottish Fishermen's Federation in spite of a suspicion that the organisation favours the east coast industry.

He said the fishing ban would affect all vessels and last from May until September. It would include demersal fish, such as haddock and cod, prawns and scallops. The Western Isles Fishermen's Association, however, have called for the weekend ban to last throughout the year.

To protect the grounds from over-fishing by east coast boats, the group wants the Government to create two new licensing areas, where only locally established vessels would be permitted to fish, although some east coast vessels which have traditionally fished the area would be allowed licences.

Special allowances would have to be made for fishing around Rockall by the Aberdeen Producers' Organisation and some Orkney and Shetland trawlers.

Artificial tongue will trace meat impurities

By Nick Nuttall

Technology Correspondent

BRITISH scientists are developing an "optical tongue" which may eventually be used to detect pesticides and other hazardous chemicals in meats.

The device is being initially designed to pinpoint excessive levels of sex hormones in pork from male pigs. The research team, however, believes there is evidence that the artificial "tasting" technology could be adapted to spot other undesirable meat contaminants.

The project, by PA Consulting Group of Cambridge, is receiving £12 million in funding from the Danish Bacon and Meat Council.

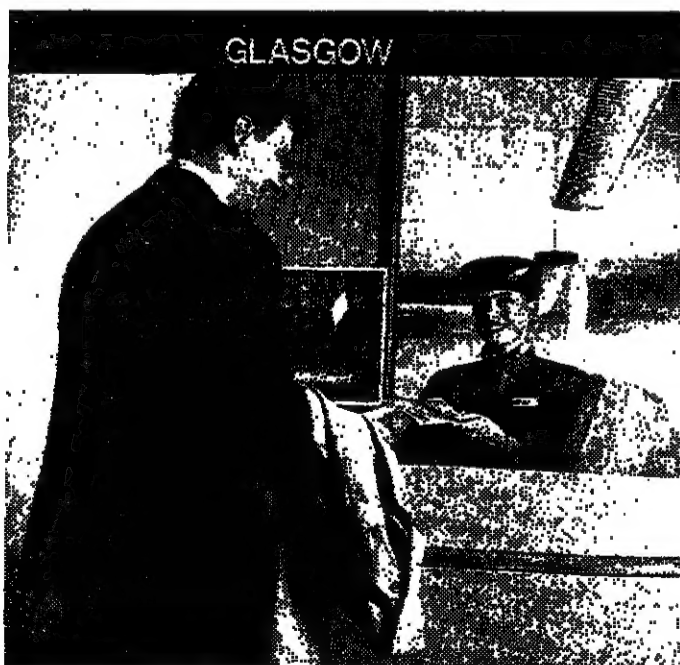
High levels of hormones in male pigs or boars cost farmers millions of pounds in lost sales. They lead to the development of a chemical called skatole that taints hams and bacon with a foul smell.

Researchers have discovered that if a boar's fat sample is chemically dissolved it can be studied under a machine called an ultra-violet spectrophotometer which creates a coloured, chemical fingerprint of the fat.

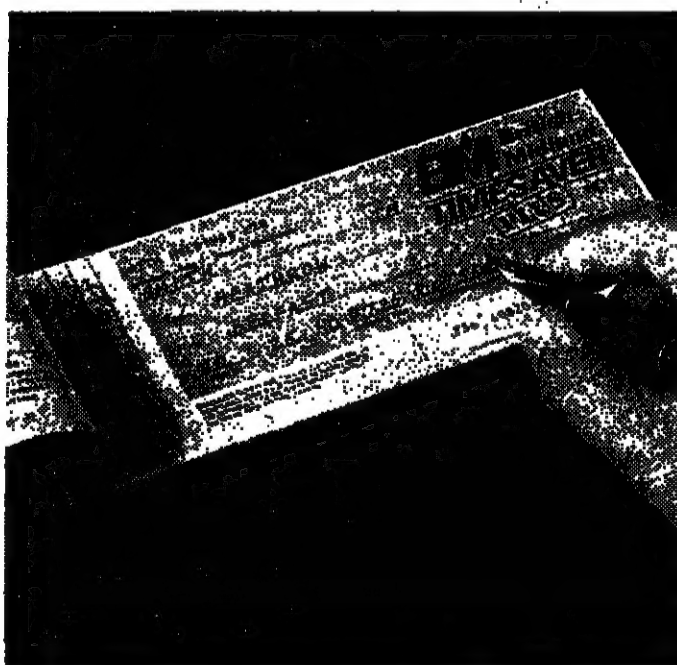
Dr Keith Ridler, chief executive of the PA's Technology Division, said there was now a belief that the system could be used to pinpoint pesticides.

WHY BUSINESS PEOPLE CHOOSE BRITISH MIDLAND

- TIME, TIME AND TIME AGAIN.



TEN MINUTE CHECK-IN FOR ALL OUR PASSENGERS



SAVE EVEN MORE TIME AND MONEY—WRITE YOUR OWN TICKETS



AWARD-WINNING PERSONAL SERVICE

British Midland have always understood the needs of the business traveller. With our famous Diamond Service, we were the first to offer all business class flights on our major domestic routes.

Unlike other airlines, we have always valued your time. Which is why we continue to offer a ten minute check-in to all our passengers, not just those paying full fare.

We also have a reputation for superior punctuality, which we are determined to maintain. Now that all our Boeing 737 aircraft from Heathrow to Belfast, Edinburgh and Glasgow, have full CAT III all-weather landing facilities, British Midland are even better equipped than before to get you to your appointment on time.

Another valuable business plus is our Timesaver Plus self-ticketing scheme which lets

travellers write their own tickets, but still makes available a full range of competitive fares as well as offering a corporate discount.

And most important of all, unlike other airlines, British Midland staff will always make time for you, the business traveller, with a personal service our competitors only pretend to match.

No wonder business people who fly, constantly fly British Midland.

Diamond Service only from **BM British Midland**

Troops and police fire on protests in Nepal

From Ian Sweet, Kathmandu, and Christopher Thomas, Delhi

POLICE and troops fired on an estimated 50,000 to 100,000 pro-democracy demonstrators on the streets of Kathmandu yesterday as Nepal was gripped by protests and a national strike.

There were unconfirmed reports of up to 10 deaths as the police were given blanket authorization to open fire. One protester fell wounded in front of journalists watching from a hotel roof.

On the police communication system, on which anyone can send a message, an army request was relayed for more ammunition. The wounded were carried away in ambulances. However, medical officers were on strike so that none of the injured police or army was helped by medical officials.

The government-run Bir Hospital also faced difficulty treating the many casualties as the strike had left it with only an emergency service. Doctors were said to be operating non-stop.

The demonstration began peacefully but turned ugly as police guards in primitive flak jackets and brandishing bamboo canes, who had been stationed along routes to the royal palace for the previous 12 hours in expectation of trouble, were taunted by the demonstrators. As the protest moved to the streets, the police, stones were thrown both at the police and hotels and shops lining the routes. Many monuments were defaced and damaged.

The police and Army used tear gas and began spasmotic firing. Then the two sides began charging and attacking each other.

Pro-democracy protests also erupted in other parts of Nepal, despite the earlier dismissal of the Government and a royal proclamation approving negotiations with militants. Witnesses said at least two people were killed and scores injured in the western town of Butwal.

King Birendra of Nepal has dismissed his Prime Minister, dissolved the Cabinet and assumed substantial emergency powers.

The Nepal opposition, most of it operating underground, announced plans to burn the national constitution on Monday. The Government has intensified its round-up of suspected agitators, holding most of them in makeshift detention centres.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been refused permission to go to Nepal to investigate detention conditions and make a tally of prisoners. It is known only that hundreds of people are held.

Mr Manich Man Singh Shrestha, the Prime Minister, resigned late on Thursday, although nothing was announced until yesterday. He has been replaced by Mr Lokesh Chandra Bahadur.

Under emergency powers extended to the King by the partyless Rashtriya Panchayat (national assembly), the King has been empowered to dissolve the Government and to suspend various articles of the constitution.

The dismissed Cabinet was reshuffled only five days previously, after the resignation of Mr S. K. Udaya, the Foreign Minister. The King's drastic action demonstrates the intensity of the challenge to Nepal's peculiar brand of semi-democracy.

In recent days, security forces have encountered some of the biggest demonstrations since the pro-democracy movement re-emerged seven weeks ago. Six people were killed when police fired on 30,000 demonstrators.

The banned United National People's Movement has led a series of widely observed strike calls that are causing increasing disruption. The top leaders of the banned Nepalese National Congress, which supports the unrest, are either in hiding or under-house arrest.

Arafat finds a welcome in Rome



MR Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, exchanging greetings with the Pope at the Vatican yesterday on the second day of a two-day visit to Italy (Paul Bonaparte writes from Rome). Mr Arafat thanked the Pope for his support of the Palestinians "in difficult moments". They had already met in 1982 and 1988. On Thursday Mr Arafat had talks with Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister. Signor Gianni De Michelis, the Foreign Minister, and President Cossiga. This is the first time an Italian President has received Mr Arafat, a clear sign of increasing Italian support for the Palestinian cause. After their meeting, the Italian President assured Mr Arafat that when it takes over the European presidency in July, Italy will do all it can to further the Palestinian cause. Italian openness towards the PLO goes back to the early 1980s, when Signor Andreotti was Foreign Minister, but this is the strongest expression so far of Italian support for the Palestinians.

Britain and Peking in clash over Hong Kong

By Andrew McEwen in London and Jonathan Brande in Hong Kong

MR Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who flew to Hong Kong yesterday to try to stem the exodus of skilled workers, urged China to stop criticizing its proposals to give British passports to up to 225,000 Hong Kong people.

But in what appeared to be a swift response to Mr Maude's comments on Hong Kong radio, the most senior Chinese official in the territory warned Britain not to do anything to damage stability and prosperity or to introduce any legislation which might conflict with the Basic Law.

Mr Zhou Nan, the head of the New China News Agency, China's de facto consulate in Hong Kong, also called on Britain to co-operate with China in developing mutual understanding before 1997.

His comments were interpreted as a renewed attack on the Nationality Bill, which China claims will undermine confidence in the territory and cause an outflow of Hong Kong's best brains and talents. They were also seen as an assault on British plans to introduce a Bill of Rights to protect human rights in the territory.

China has made it clear that the basic law, Hong Kong's post-1997 mini-constitution, must be supreme over all other laws and that a Bill of Rights would conflict with the basic law unless it had no more validity than any other local legislation.

Before leaving Britain Mr Maude made it clear that China's negative reaction to the scheme was damaging Britain's attempts to restore confidence among the 5.7 million residents.

"The most important thing that can happen in order to reaffirm confidence in Hong Kong is for sensible things to be said by the Chinese Government and for them not to attack measures we take in order to help Hong Kong have the best possible long-term future," he said in an interview with Radio Television Hong Kong.

Growing Arab arsenal leads to Israeli rethink

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

RAPID proliferation of advanced weapons in the Arab world is tilting the strategic balance in the Middle East against Israel, Israeli defence experts have concluded.

Three dramatic developments this week have highlighted the new threat: Iraq's threat to use chemical weapons against Israel; the revelation that Egypt, with the help of Argentina, is developing a nuclear capability; and - less noticed than the other two, but no less alarming for Israel - the deployment by Iraq of surface-to-surface missiles on its border with Jordan.

These moves follow the interception at Heathrow of nuclear-trigger devices intended for Iraq, and the formation of joint Iraqi-Jordanian army brigades and air squadrons.

According to Dr Avi Becker, an expert on nuclear weapons at Bar Ilan University, the Arab-Israeli conflict has reached "a major watershed". Dr Becker says that threats by "a crazy Arab leader" - a reference to President Saddam Hussein - coincide with Arab weapons developments which pose a "major threat to the international order" as well as to the Middle East regional balance. Dr Gerald Steinberg, a lecturer in defence studies at the same university, says the Middle East has reached "a critical point in history".

"The Middle East is heading for a crisis very similar to the types of crisis which marked the relations in the early 1960s between the United States and the Soviet Union which culminated in the Cuban missile crisis," Dr Steinberg said. Iraqi actions could not be looked at in isolation, he said, adding that Libya and Syria were also developing chemical weapons.

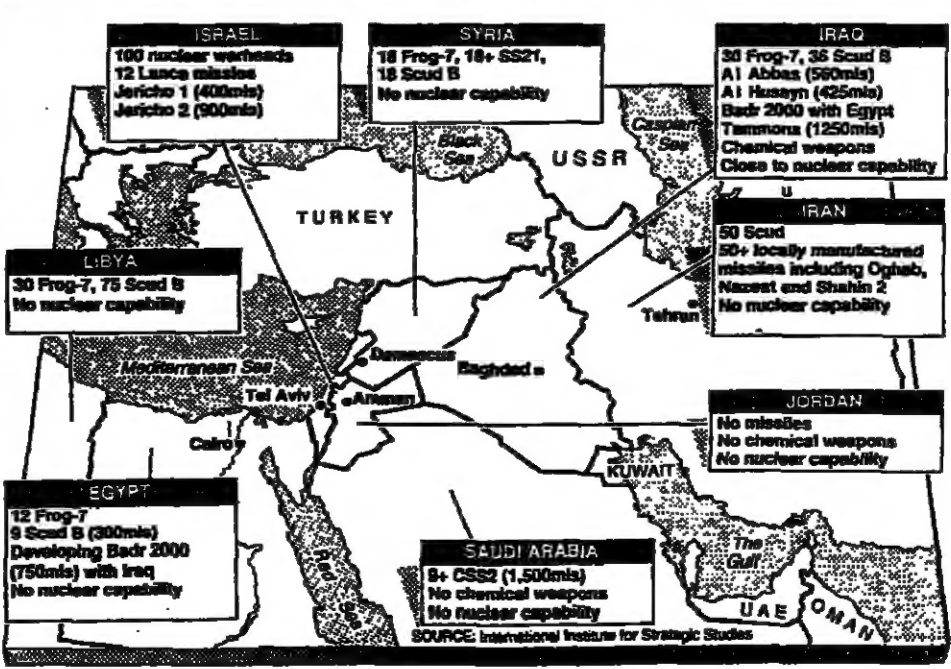
Dr Yossi Olmert, a specialist in Arab affairs and head of the Government Press Department, said: "Iraq is developing chemical weapons, biological weapons, and nuclear weapons. All these are deadly threats to the peace and stability of the entire Middle East, but particularly to the state of Israel."

The official Israeli position is that Israel will never be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. Some senior officials can be heard suggesting that Israel should "go open in its nuclear option". But the prevailing view remains that "nuclear ambiguity" is probably a more effective deterrent.

According to Dr Dore Gold, an arms control expert at the Hebrew University, the need for an Israeli reassessment is based on two factors. There has, Dr Gold maintains, been an erroneous assumption recently that, as diplomatic moves towards a settlement of the Palestinian question continue, most of the Arab world has "implicitly accepted Israel's existence".

This is partly based, he says, on the fact that both Iraq and Syria have restored their links with Egypt, having previously shunned Cairo because of its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. But, Dr Gold asserts, the rapprochement between the radical Arab states and Egypt has little to do with Israel and a great deal more to do with Egypt's standing in the Arab world.

The second factor, in Dr Gold's analysis, is the possible replacement of Syria by Iraq as the "primary threat to Israel".



Black radicals gain ground in South Africa

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

THE African National Congress has emerged from the first round of its political contest with the South African Government slightly ahead.

By gaining the tacit support of most of the self-governing homeland leaders, the ANC has scored a technical knockout on a potential adversary. But other formidable opponents are gaining strength and preparing to enter the ring.

In the mêlée of on-off exploratory talks between the most prominent parties to the negotiation process this week, one organization was missing - the Pan Africanist Movement. Generally dismissed as a small minority of radicals, the movement is rapidly growing in stature in the townships with emotive appeals to black unity and power.

Formed in February as an umbrella for Africanist aspirations, which preclude any form of power-sharing with the white minority, its officials say almost half a million membership cards are being printed, and they cannot keep pace with demand. It is particularly strong in the western Cape and Johannesburg area, making inroads in the eastern Cape, and gaining ground in Transkei, the homeland of Mr Nelson Mandela and other Xhosa-speaking ANC leaders.

"The Africanists are undoubtedly coming up fast, particularly among militant youths who regard the ANC as a bourgeois organization," a senior diplomat says. "There is no question that they are a threat to the ANC and to the Government."

He says that far from being a loose formation of inarticulate radicals, the movement has a core of intellectuals arguably larger than that of the ANC. "If one were to take the 1,000 best black brains in the country, one would find a majority sympathetic to Africanist ideals."

Mr Barney Desai, regional co-ordinator in the western Cape, took its crusade into an ANC stronghold yesterday when he opened a branch office in Mitchell's Plain, a Coloured (mixed race) township near Cape Town.

Vilifying the ANC for negotiating with the Government, he declared: "It smells. It would appear that the ANC is well on the way to transforming itself into the Anglo-National Congress. Our principles are clear. Apartheid must be dismantled in its entirety."

The outcome of President de Klerk's talks with disparate black leaders this week is that preliminary negotiations with the ANC are back on course, but his strategy of drawing more moderate black figures into the process is seriously undermined. Even if the ruling National Party and the ANC reach a settlement, there are doubts whether it would be acceptable to most blacks, let alone the white community.

As the next round approaches, only Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of the KwaZulu homeland and leader of the conservative Inkatha movement, remains in the ring as a counterpoint to the ANC. He is a powerful figure, but is in danger of becoming isolated in his Natal stronghold.

Meanwhile, the Africanists are waiting for an opportunity to enter the fray in earnest.

JOHANNESBURG: Seven more people, including two women and a policeman, have been killed as violence continues unabated in Natal (Ray Kennedy writes).

Police patrols opened fire with pistols, shotguns and rifles against attackers, but there were casualties in only one incident, near Ladysmith, where a man was killed and another wounded by police gunfire, according to an official police report yesterday.

Three policemen were shot and wounded in the attacks, the report said. It made no mention of any action involving troops.

Big cutbacks end Swedish dream

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

SWEDEN adopted one of the most drastic austerity packages in its post-war history yesterday. It signals an end to the socialist reforms that have made its population of 8.5 million, one of the most pampered but increasingly least productive in Western Europe.

In what many local industrialists see as a belated and feeble attempt to make the nation more competitive on world markets and cut spending at home, Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Prime Minister, who heads a minority Social Democratic administration, made a deal with the Liberals to push the controversial package through Parliament.

Still more drastic measures along the lines demanded by industry, which included a wage freeze and a ban on strikes, led to the temporary defeat of his Government earlier this year.

The cost of living in Sweden, already one of the highest in Europe, will go up immediately. The main effects will flow from the lifting of a price and rents freeze and the raising of value added tax from 23.46 per cent to 25 per cent, pushing up prices of food and many services that recently became subject to VAT, in addition to luxury goods.

In a move to cut workplace absenteeism, one of the main causes of declining productivity, the Government will put an end to the present system under which workers report sick and are immediately compensated for the bulk of their loss of pay merely by telephoning an answering device at their local national insurance office, with no obligation to produce a doctor's certificate for one week.

Mr Carlsson tried to cut child allowances, a sacrosanct cornerstone of the welfare state. In the event, the Liberals forced him to compromise.

Rises in the allowances, already agreed, will now take place in two stages instead of coming into effect next year. Families already collecting £672 a year per child had been promised an extra £430 a year. The rate will be raised instead to £900 next year and to the full £1,000 in 1992.

Plans to raise pregnancy leave from 12 to 15 months have been postponed and a scheme for a sixth week of paid holiday abandoned.

Poll result challenged by Tekere

HARARE - Mr Edgar Tekere, leader of Zimbabwe's badly bruised political opposition in last week's elections, yesterday dismissed the result of the voting as the outcome of rigging, irregularities and illegality (Jan Raath writes).

He told a press conference that he and his officials were collecting details of alleged vote-rigging and would use their final results as a means to challenge in court the victory of President Mugabe and his ruling Zanu (PF) party. He claimed that the Zimbabwe Unity Movement's (ZUM) election agents had been refused permission to enter polling stations.

Jail terms for 23 islanders

Papeete, French Polynesia - A jury sentenced 23 islanders to prison after finding them guilty of torturing and burning to death six people in a frenzied hunt in the South Pacific paradise.

The jury at the Tribunal of Papeete handed down the penalties ranging from three to 14 years' imprisonment for those who took part in the slaying during two horror-filled days in 1987. (AP)

Princess held on tax charges

Rome - Princess Irene Galitzine, a former queen of Italian high fashion and the inventor of the famous "pallazzo pyjamas", was arrested in Rome on Thursday on charges of tax evasion (Paul Bonaparte writes).

The Princess, aged 72, dressed Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn, Jacqueline Onassis and members of Europe's royal families.

Americans seize the chance to feel good about doing badly

From Charles Bremner New York

THE cameras zoom in to a handcuffed teenage killer in New York. "Jones" lawyers say the young man lacks self-esteem, the reporter intones. In Detroit, the chief school psychologist this week opposes the introduction of uniforms to curb violence over clothes among fashion-minded youths. "Students are committing these crimes because they don't have a sense of self-esteem," she says.

Only three years ago California was ridiculed by the cartoonists and much of the rest of America when it set up an official "task force on self-esteem", but as usual the trend-setting state is enjoying the last laugh.

The theory that the key to happiness and success consists of feeling good about yourself - mocked in 1987 as the product of mellow-minded West Coast

shrinks - has caught on with a vengeance and has emerged as the dominant doctrine in many American schools, juvenile courts and pop sociology.

However, some critics are challenging the theory as a dangerous encouragement to complacency in a country which already turns out, by many measures, the least educated children in the industrialized world.

Across the country, school boards are ordering teachers to inculcate self-worth as top priority. The Governor of Maryland has created a 26-member panel to promote the doctrine that "drug abuse, teen pregnancy, failure in school and most other social ills can be reduced by making people feel good about themselves", as the *Baltimore Sun* put it.

In New York, another state "task force" recommended in November that schools "nurture self-esteem and respond to individual needs." This, it held, would help combat the continuous demolition of their self-image that nearly all children are said by the experts to suffer as they progress from nursery school to sixth form.

From Massachusetts to New Mexico, teachers are promoting the power of positive thinking by urging pupils to chant things like "I am a good person, I am kind" and "I am a friend, I am special".

At one typical Long Island school they teach children to resist thinking with a "mud mind" and stay with a "sparkler mind". At St Clement's school in Somerville, near Boston, pupils are taught how to "celebrate their goodness, their gifts and their strengths". Techniques include keeping a journal of good actions and learning to say to others: "Thanks. I affirm you for being a good friend." On the teacher's desk, as in many other

classrooms around the country, there sits a glass jar full of blue liquid, which is meant to symbolize the potential of each pupil.

In recent months, the jargon of the self-esteem school has entered popular culture, in television shows and even commercials. You hear it on the street in New York, often spiced with that other fashionable term "to disrespect" someone.

The man alleged to have started the murderous fire at the Bronx social club last month claimed he did it because his girlfriend had "disrespected" him. "Getting disrespected is good for your self-esteem," explained one young man to a New York reporter.

The doctrine has always been ridiculed by conservatives, who see it as a deterrent to learning. Now some experts are citing the fact that the California task force failed, after spending nearly \$1 million, to produce solid evidence to bear out the theory.

Conversely, a recent poll produced a startling statistic. A mathematics test was given to 13-year-olds in six countries. Koreans came top and the Americans came bottom. The children were also asked if they agreed with the statement: "I am good at mathematics." The Koreans came bottom with 23 per cent agreeing and the Americans came top, with 68 per cent. American "kids feel exceedingly good about doing bad," said a *Time* magazine commentary.

Over the past month, the American Federation of Teachers and the chief of the California school system have both attacked the most radical scheme so far suggested for helping members of racial minorities improve their view of themselves.

The proposal, made by a New

London-Washington links become 'one-way street'

From Peter Stothard
US Editor, Washington

"YOUR usual seats, gentlemen," said Mrs Margaret Thatcher to the American visitors as they entered her Downing Street study. "I hope not to be seeing you again for a very long time," she told them as they left.

If, as once was said, diplomatic history can be told through the "hellos" and "goodbyes", this exchange in January between the Prime Minister and two senior emissaries from President Bush sums up nicely the state of the "special relationship" as the two sides prepare for their Easter summit in Bermuda.

The seats taken by Mr Robert Gates, Deputy National Security Adviser, and Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, Deputy Secretary of State, were their "usual" ones as both men have become familiar fixtures of the transatlantic ferry circuit over the past tumultuous year.

Communications traffic between Whitehall and the White House is probably at a post-war high. Mrs Thatcher spends much more time on the telephone with Mr Bush than she did with her soul mate, Mr Reagan. Meetings, whether in person or through intermediaries, have become more common and less formal.

But the Prime Minister's wryly re-

signed farewell to her guests was symbolic, too. The substance of the messages from Washington have become more surprising and unwelcome than before.

Before the January visit, the President had decided to announce a new round of US troop cuts and base closures. The news would be public in a few days' time. The messengers were bringing advance intelligence, not seeking advice. Although the British could take satisfaction in hearing of the decision before the other Nato partners, they were able to do nothing but make the most marginal corrections to the plan.

The Bermuda meeting is likely to be cordial. It will cover important Japanese trade questions and nuclear proliferation in the Middle East as well as the central issues of Europe. But no one can hide the fact that relations between London and Washington — even if only temporarily — have become a "one-way street".

Mr Bush is still much criticized in his own capital for his diffidence in the face of the new Europe. But, to those who stand at the receiving end of US foreign policy, it hardly seems like that. Both on arms reductions and on the architecture for German reunification the US has led the way — and still leads the way. Mrs Thatcher may have had an early effort on Mr Bush's appreciation of President

Gorbachev. She may, too, have played a part in forcing the principle, if not the practical form, of the international forum which is now known as the "two-plus-four talks".

But her short-term place in the US relationship to Europe is clear. It is Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, who will get virtually any help they need to retain power. If that means intensifying Mrs Thatcher's sense of cautious isolation from Europe, so be it. If Downing Street dreads each moment that Messrs Eagleburger and Gates might return, so be it, too. As for poll-tax revolts and by-election defeats, Mrs Thatcher's future is of more dramatic than strategic interest to Americans.

The longer term (which, in the Bush White House, means anything more than a year) is, as usual, not so clear. Alongside its assertiveness on certain issues, the US is deeply insecure about its future relationship with the nations of Europe. Calm White House statements hide a serious concern about how its influence there is to be maintained. As one official put it, "For every one point drop in our military presence, we need a 10 point rise in other links, maybe even more, to maintain our pull over events. As nuclear is to conventional forces, so

military is to non-military; we're going to need more new connections than any of us have yet come to terms with."

The bureaucrats have their own new buzz word — the "avenue" or, for those who prefer a buzz phrase, the "avenue of access". American fears of closing links and losing access far outweigh older interests. "You British, for example," a middle-ranking official said, "are obsessed by the loss of the special relationship. Why can't you see that the avenue between Washington and London, no matter how wide or special it is, simply could not take the traffic that we want."

As the State Department sees it, the US is engaged in the biggest highway programme in history. It wants new six-lane avenues to Berlin, Bonn, Brussels, Paris, Nato, EC, CSCE, and all turnings to Moscow. It wants flexible plans, which will allow it to build a slip-road here, a bypass there — and change its mind back again.

"What you should be looking at is not who gets building priority but how much building is going on. That is what counts," the official said, using words which sound impatient and are meant to. Washington is growing tired of the regular taunts by British commentators about the sad state of the "relationship". The overwhelming fear is that

disagreements within Europe (petty disagreements, as Americans see them) will deprive the US of the flexibility to build its "avenues". Mr Bush, like his recent predecessors, believes that almost any sort of unity in Europe is better than nothing in this respect.

Mrs Thatcher has had some limited success in persuading the White House of the dangers of this view by showing the prospects of inflexibility and protectionism from a Europe dominated by Brussels. But every small gain has been hard won.

If the atmosphere surrounding the Bermuda talks is better than those at Camp David in November, it is not least because the volume of abuse between London and Brussels has been reduced since the Strasbourg summit. It has also helped that the French, once the White House darlings for their attitude to European integration, have begun to irritate the Administration with what is seen as petty reluctance to be flexible about new roles for Nato, CSCE, EC and the "two-plus-four" talks.

A new book disparaging US power by President Mitterrand's top economic adviser has also been ill-received. "The Kennedys' honeymoon is definitely over," said one US official, referring to the much noted fact that Mitterrand had, unlike Mrs Thatcher,

been invited to the Bush family holiday home. A week after the Bermuda meeting, Mitterrand makes a similar trip — to a hotel in Florida.

Although there has been no shortage of commentators keen to write off the "special relationship" for clarity, Mr Bush is about as personally committed to a close and trusting relationship with Britain as one could hope for.

The core of Britain's transatlantic link can be described as shared culture, shared secrets, and close links between individuals in government. Mr Bush is the embodiment of all three.

But once this latest round of allied summits is over, the chief problem for anyone dealing with the Bush Administration will still be the same. The avenues of real access into the marble halls of Washington look set to remain so much narrower than those planned to lead outside.

If Mrs Thatcher or her successor were to think that Mr James Baker, Secretary of State, was too mechanistic in his approach to Europe, too inclined to see the world through Treasury spectacles, insufficiently aware of the nationalist pressures that can so easily make economics a mockery, she or he would have many fewer wits than before to insert their ideas into the American decision-making machinery.

Moscow drops its insistence on neutral Germany

From Susan Elliott, Washington

MOSCOW is no longer demanding that a unified Germany be neutral, the United States said yesterday. But the two sides are still far apart on its status within Nato.

On the third day of talks between Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Baker appeared to suggest that the Soviet Union would be willing to accept either a weaker Nato than exists today or some kind of Nato association for Germany other than full status. Ideally, Moscow would like both.

"It's fair to say that there was a recognition that perhaps neutrality is not the best route to go," Mr Baker said. "They were quite clear, however, in their desire or their view that a unified Germany as part of Nato presented a problem to them."

Mr Baker said it was made clear to Mr Shevardnadze that the US was "firm in our view that a unified Germany must remain a member of Nato".

It has been clear for some time that the Soviet Union would not win acceptance for its preference that a unified Germany be neutral. But Moscow is expected to continue its attempt to keep Germany outside Nato's unified military command.

President Bush was due to meet Mr Shevardnadze later in the morning, one day after the superpowers announced a date for a summit in the US — May 30 to June 3. The Soviet Foreign Minister carried with him a letter from President Gorbachev for Mr Bush.

Mr Shevardnadze's visit coincides with one of the most

tense periods in US-Soviet relations during Mr Bush's 15 months in office. At a time of rapid rapprochement after the democratic reforms in Eastern Europe, Washington has appeared uncomfortable with Moscow's tough stand against Lithuania's attempts to gain independence.

Now that a summit date is set, the Bush Administration will have to tread carefully towards the Kremlin's crack-down on Lithuanian independence. Congress has been urging a tougher stand.

The talks between Mr Baker and Mr Shevardnadze have concentrated on the Soviet Union's struggling economy, regional conflicts and ironing out differences impeding the signature of accords on limiting long-range nuclear missiles, chemical arms and conventional forces in Europe.

Soviet and US officials indicated on Thursday that the superpowers are unlikely to resolve a sufficient number of obstacles by the summit to permit the two presidents to sign a new arms control agreement as they had hoped. They could, however, sign an agreement in principle.

● MOSCOW: The Latvian Communist Party opened a contentious two-day congress in Riga yesterday that was expected to end with a resolution similar to those adopted in the republic's two Baltic neighbours, Lithuania and Estonia, to seek independence from the Soviet party (Michael Binyon writes).

But the Latvian party is likely to split over the issue, with the majority calling for the retention of some links with Moscow, including

participation in the Soviet party's elected bodies, and the minority, made up mostly of ethnic Latvians, wanting to break all contacts.

Unlike Lithuania and Estonia, Latvia has almost as many ethnic Russians as Latvians. On the eve of the congress a third faction emerged, calling for some midway compromise and giving a warning that ethnic feuding would destroy Marxism in the republic.

Meanwhile, Moscow has stayed silent on the reply sent to President Gorbachev by the Lithuanian Supreme Council, which urged the opening of a dialogue and expressed understanding for the "concern" its declaration of independence caused in Moscow.

The Russians will clearly be encouraged by the conciliatory tone and the implied climbdown by Vilnius, but Moscow is in no mood to make concessions and is likely to continue the pressure on Lithuania until it meets the conditions set for a normal opening of talks.

These include rescinding last month's declaration of independence, which the Supreme Soviet in Moscow has declared null and void.

The international affairs committee of the Soviet Parliament yesterday criticized the resolutions passed on Lithuania by the US House and Senate foreign affairs committees. It said such attempts to influence events would not promote a settlement and would only intensify the confrontation between various groups. Speakers denounced US ultimatums as tactless and an infringement of Soviet sovereignty.

Hungary's two-party final race

From Ernest Beck
Budapest

HUNGARIANS go to the polls tomorrow in the second and decisive round of voting for a multi-party parliament which will be dominated by the two first-round winners, the centre-right Democratic Forum and its liberal rival, the Alliance of Free Democrats.

It is largely a choice between the Forum's brand of Christian-nationalist ideas of government and a social-liberal concept favoured by the Free Democrats.

The run-off was called after just a handful of candidates in the 176 constituency races received the mandatory 50 per cent majority. In the second round only a simple majority is required and six parties, which achieved the threshold 4 per cent of the popular vote in the first round, will be taking part instead of an original 30 parties.

In the two-week period between the polls both front runners tried to bolster their chances by forming strategic election alliances with the smaller parties, but it is uncertain if local party organizations and voters will heed calls to switch candidate preferences.

A crucial alliance between the conservative Forum and the rural-based Smallholders, which finished in third place, looks shaky after much internal wrangling and many Smallholder candidates have withdrawn in favour of the Free Democrats. The Forum is also aligned with the Christian Democrats while the Free Democrats have struck a firm nation-wide deal with the League of Young Democrats.

Another nail will be driven into the coffin of Slovenia's tortured relations with Serbia tomorrow when Slovenes vote in their first free election since before the war.

Though viewed by many outside Yugoslavia as a chance to dismantle decades of inept communist rule, the elections, echoed in neighbouring Croatia, are first and foremost a vote against Belgrade and 70 years of virtually uninterrupted Serbian domination of Slovene affairs.

"If you want to know what I oppose most, communism or the Serbs' Balkanization of Slovenia, I can tell you immediately that it is 'Balkanization'," says the president of the opposition Social Democratic party, Mr Jozse Pucnik.

All 17 parties taking part in the elections have made "Balkanization" the key issue. The five opposition parties,

the so-called Demos (democratic opposition), are convinced Slovenia cannot work any longer with Serbia.

Both Slovenia and Croatia have a history of loyalty to the

Habsburg Empire and Central European values.

In both republics, despite years of religious repression, sometimes violent, Roman Catholicism has remained the

principal religious faith. This places them at odds with the predominantly Orthodox Serbs, whose history is one of centuries of unrelieved Turkish repression.

Both northern republics have regarded Serbia for many years as little more than a "Turkish outpost".

"We once belonged to Austria; they, the Serbs, were — and still are — Turkish," says Professor Edo Ravnikar, Slovenia's leading architect.

Serbian nationalism, in particular the abuse of Albanian human rights in the southern province of Kosovo, has only confirmed this in Ljubljana's eyes.

"The separation of the Slovenes from the rest of Yugoslavia would be, easily," says Mr Ljiljana Petric, leader of the opposition Christian Democratic Party, also part of Demos.

Romania's new-style police force



Miss Cornelia Stefan, a senior grade student at Bucharest's newly-formed police academy at the suburb of Baneasa, applies lipstick before attending a course in foreign languages

Communists retain a few aces

From Richard Bassett, Ljubljana

IF 1989 was the "year of revolutions" in Eastern Europe, 1990 will be remembered as the "year of elections" which gave nations long deprived of democracy their first acquaintance for many years with unrigged ballot boxes.

It is a voyage into the unknown for almost everyone concerned — except the communists. They alone have experience of dealing — or rather subverting — democratic elections. They are, above all, as bitter memories of the 1940s remind us, masters of exploiting coalitions.

Though Moscow's influence may be diminishing in Eastern Europe, the communists still have a few cards left to play in the run-up to these elections. Only in East Germany is Moscow's hand weakening by the day.

Firstly, only Czechoslovakia (elections, June 8), and some would say only the former Czech Crown lands (Bohemia and Moravia), have any tradition of democracy.

Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland have never

experienced effective modern parliamentary democracy. Hungary (second round of elections tomorrow) was ruled by an "autocratic Regent", Admiral Horthy, before the Second World War.

Bulgaria (elections, June 10) and Romania (elections, May 20) were governed before the communists took over by various able if unfortunate monarchs who, while possessed of considerable charm, did not correspond to British ideals of constitutional monarchs.

In Yugoslavia two gifted men, King Alexander and his successor after his assassination Prince Paul, were forced by ethnic tensions to dissolve parliament and rule by decree.

This month's elections in Slovenia and Croatia have no parallels in Serbia or the southern republics, emphasizing again the dangers posed to stable democracy by nationalism. A Yugoslav Federation ruled democratically in the north and by a monolithic communist machine in the south seems destined to become in a few

years little more than a "geographical expression".

Lack of democratic traditions and the spectre of escalating ethnic tensions may yet serve the communists well as they scramble to hold on to power.

A more powerful weapon in the communist armoury is still the extraordinary forces of inertia which prevail in these countries. Many key positions held by communists in the bureaucracy cannot be rapidly dismantled. More important, former communist party members are still in control of key positions in the media.

It is tempting to think that this can only take place in Balkan countries, such as Romania, but even in Czechoslovakia, where hopes for a transition to Western democracy are highest, all the heads of the state media, including the all-powerful state television service, are former party members.

It is unlikely that these influential posts, critical in the months before an election, will be vacated in favour of non-party people until the

elections are over. But perhaps most worrying of all is the resurgence of nationalism already posing a violent and dramatic backdrop to the machinery of elections.

Without recourse to communist methods of control, increasingly dependent upon public opinion to retain power, and faced with devastated economies, it cannot be discounted that the new democratic politicians emerging across Eastern Europe this spring will not exploit nationalist tensions.

Old rivalries, never forgotten, between Romanians and Hungarians, Czechs and Poles are already resurfacing. An angry Mr Lech Walesa, snubbed Mr Vaclav Havel for visiting Germany before Poland. A petulant Budapest refuses to take part in a summit in Bratislava in protest at alleged mistreatment of a Hungarian minority in Slovakia. Only an optimist would imagine the advent of parliamentary democracy helping any of these problems.

Leading article, page 11

Soviet academia starts to debunk Lenin

From Michael Binyon
Moscow

THE most important attempt by Soviet academics to debunk the myths surrounding Lenin ended yesterday with the close of a four-day conference attended by Western authorities on the Russian revolution.

The Soviet Academy of Sciences had invited 60 historians from Britain, the US, France and West Germany, including many fierce critics of Lenin and Communist ideology, for an unprecedented round-table seminar at which criticism of the founder of the Soviet state flowed freely.

The conference, two weeks before the 120th anniversary of Lenin's birth, is symptomatic of the Soviet Union's painful reassessment of its ideology and Communist past. Until recently, Lenin was a sacrosanct figure.

In the past few days, *Pravda*, the newspaper Lenin founded, has published a frank assessment of his role, including some contentious remarks on the treatment of the opponents of the revolution.

Western historians taking part included Professors Robert Tucker of Princeton University, Alexander Rabinovitch of Indiana, Paul Folsom of Aberystwyth, John Keep, until recently Professor at Toronto University. Leading critics of Communism, such as Mr Robert Conquest, author of books on Stalin's purges, and Professor Adam Ulam from Harvard were invited but did not attend.

According to some Western participants, the Soviet side was eager to consider the controversies surrounding Lenin, but most Soviet historians did not accept a full-scale reassessment of his role. Indeed Dr Ury Afanasyev, rector of the Soviet Historical Archives Institute and a leading liberal historian, accused his countrymen of being ideologically blinkered and failing to put aside political prejudices.

The Soviet participants even discussed the dissident movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

Not all the Western visitors were ready to debunk Lenin. Dr Tucker said Lenin was both a revolutionary and a reformer, with his second role more evident once he was in power. As a reformer, he was more influenced by Robert Owen, the founder of the co-operative movement, than by Marx. "If he were living now, I would like to think he would be representative of the new thinking and realise that a market approach to economics was unavoidable."

Already a more critical attitude to Lenin is apparent in daily Soviet life. The Arbat, the main pedestrian street in Moscow, is full of biting cartoons of Soviet leaders, including Lenin. Nearly all the posters of Lenin striding purposefully towards a Communist dawn have been removed from their pedestals.

Newspapers have published letters criticizing the iconization of Lenin and there are rumours that some of his statues will be removed.

The moves to tear away the veil of myth appear to have been authorized by President Gorbachev himself. In February, Mr Vadim Medvedev, the party's chief ideologist, said that for over half a century a whole body of Leninist dogma had been inculcated as the only acceptable view. "The party faces a dual task — to rid Leninism of dogma and all possible falsifications, and to develop its potential as a living, changing reality."

Can we twist
your arm for £25?
She gets hers
twisted for nothing.

It's not much to ask for is it? £25 to relieve a child's pain and suffering. Last year your contributions helped more than 54,000 abused children like little Suzi. So please send us £25, or more if you can, because the more you send the less they'll have to suffer.

I WANT TO HELP A CHILD RIGHT NOW.

I enclose my Cheque/Postal Order for:

☐ £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £25 ☐ £

I would like to donate by Access/Visa, expiry date:

NAME: Mr/Ms/Ms

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

Send your donation to: Christopher Brown Ref 901645

NSPCC FREEPOST, London, EC1B 1QQ. Or ring 01-242 1626.

NSPCC

Japan denies selling out to US over trade accord

From Susan Elliott, Washington

JAPAN'S Prime Minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, fended off criticism in Tokyo yesterday that his country has sold out to the United States by agreeing to sweeping new measures designed to open its markets to foreign firms.

Americans have hailed the agreement as a crucial step towards smoothing the increasingly tense relations between the two countries, the world's leading economic powers, over the \$50 billion (£30.5 billion) annual US trade deficit with Japan.

After four days of intense talks in Washington, a Japanese delegation on Thursday agreed to measures to relax restrictions on establishing overseas retail shops in Japan, to increase public spending and to act against collusion by Japanese companies to protect domestic business.

Washington has been pressing Japan since last summer to open its economy to foreign business and investment, arguing that Japan benefits from its access to markets around the world but has not granted trading competitors equivalent advantages.

Hardly lifting his eyes from a prepared script, Mr. Kaifu said in Tokyo that the accord "will be in our national interest", but would involve changes in Japanese business methods that "will possibly be painful".

Like Japanese officials in Washington, he seemed anxious to show that Japan had conceded more than the US, and emphasized that the terms of the accord were not a "compromise" but in line with Japanese "proposals".

The US agreed to allow

Japan to buy crude oil and liquefied natural gas from Alaska, and reaffirmed promises by the Bush Administration to improve America's national savings rate, educational standards, and federal deficit, which Japan for some time has blamed for the trade imbalance between the two countries.

News of the accord boosted both the Japanese yen and stock prices in Tokyo, providing a welcome lift after the recent sharp drops.

US comment approached the agreement from a different angle. Mrs. Carla Hills, the US Trade Representative, praising Mr. Kaifu's Government for "courage and leadership".

At the same time some members of the US Congress wondered whether Japan had promised enough changes in its traditionally clunky business practices.

Sceptics say the accord will mark a new era in US-Japan relations only if Tokyo lives up to its pledge to relax restrictions. Congress has taken a tough position against Japan, threatening to impose mandatory sanctions on some Japanese imports unless Japan makes it easier for American firms to operate in Japan.

Some sceptics have dismissed the US praise for the accord as rhetoric designed to allay increasing protectionist pressure in Congress. America emphasized that it was unlikely to see immediate benefits in its trade balance with Japan, but trade experts said the concessions should ensure that Japan will not this year be included on Washington's list of unfair trading nations.



Miss Maria Damsaki, regarded as a rising star in the Greek Communist Party, addressing a left-wing mass rally in Athens during the campaign

Greens could hold the key to Greek election

From Philip Jacobson, Athens

AS MORE than six million Greeks prepare wearily for their third attempt in less than a year to elect an effective government, the signs are that a few thousand votes in the right constituencies are going to be crucial to Sunday's result.

Since the Greens appear to be the only party gaining ground, there is an intriguing possibility that the balance of parliamentary power could reside with a quirky federation of some 100 special interest factions ranging from opponents of nuclear energy plants and conventional ecologists to the bicycle power lobby and the country's most celebrated transvestite.

This gentleman is called Paola, an Athenian publisher and long-time activist for gay rights in one of Europe's more aggressively heterosexual societies. Paola is number one on the list of candidates for Kraximo and he has let it be known that, if elected, he will take his place in Parliament in women's clothing.

To judge by the Greens' showing in recent opinion polls, that is not a prospect to horrify those who have finally had enough of the old-style politics of corruption and patronage.

If they cannot quite vote the Kraximo ticket, there is always the Society of Lovers of

the Bicycle, whose platform includes the provision of special traffic lanes on the capital's chaotic main roads.

Passing lightly over the Association of Pavlov's Dogs (anti-violence) and a group reportedly dedicated to furthering the cause of nudism — one suspects this may be a spoof — it becomes clear that the base support for Greece's Greens, who campaign under the clumsy banner of Ecologists-Alternatives, lies in the environmental lobby.

Not before time, more and more Greeks are becoming alarmed at the state of their traffic-clogged towns and filthy air. It is no coincidence that a Green who (somewhat to her own surprise perhaps) won the movement's parliamentary seat last November, Mrs. Marina Dyzil, comes from Athens, home of the infamous smog, the nefos that smothers the capital on hot, still days.

When Parliament recently became bogged down in partisan squabbles about the election of a new Greek President, Mrs. Dyzil summed up the exasperation of many citizens by brandishing a bright pink sign declaring "Enough of this theatre".

That might not amount to a constructive policy — the Ecologist-Alternative party is not too strong on policies —

but it would have touched the right nerve among the first-time voters and women who appear to be its keenest supporters.

The polls also suggest that defectors from the far left are drifting into the Green camp to register their protest at the readiness of the Communist-led Alliance of the Left to fall into the arms of either main party at the first hint of a place in government.

The disarray in the Communist camp, from which, most observers consider, must come the votes required for a clear-cut victory by the Socialists of Pasok or the conservative New Democracy party, reflects its lack of any real response to the dramas sweeping Eastern Europe. The party's veteran leader, Mr. Harilaos Florakis — a septuagenarian like his rivals — certainly seems to have squandered any chance of luring disgruntled Socialist voters away: something that must have struck him as perfectly possible with Mr. Andreas Papandreou mired in scandal only nine months ago.

There is obvious appeal in a clean, visibly independent faction which Greece's convoluted electoral arithmetic could lift into a pivotal position if, as seems likely, Sunday leaves the country deadlocked once again.

Novelist's hopes fading in Peru

From Corinne Schmidt, Lima

FEW countries approach their general elections in such a critical state as Peru, which will elect a new President and Congress tomorrow.

Two months ago most thought that the man to save them was the novelist who gave up books to run for President, Señor Mario Vargas Llosa, a centre-right liberal. Tomorrow, when 10 million Peruvians will cast their votes, he may poll less than 40 per cent. He will almost certainly be forced to face a run-off election with his nearest competitor.

The novelist's toughest foe has not turned out to be Señor Henry Pease, the priest-like leftist. Nor has Señor Alfonso Barrantes, the ex-Stalinist turned moderate socialist, won more than lukewarm affection with his carefully cultivated image of the humble provincial mestizo. Señor Luis Alva Castro has a strong party base, but suffers from the catastrophic performance of the nation's current President and from his own utter lack of charisma.

The man giving Señor Vargas Llosa his most serious competition is an academic most Peruvians had never heard of three months ago.

Señor Alberto Fujimori, the former Rector of the National Agrarian University, has quite literally come out of nowhere to become a strong contender for second place in tomorrow's election. The Peruvian

of Japanese descent sold his house and a tractor to finance his candidature. He has run a spartan campaign with a basic message of honesty and hard work and has made almost no promises. In recent weeks, he and his "Change 90" movement have risen one point a day in the polls.

Pollsters say Señor Vargas Llosa has "wide but shallow" support. His closing campaign rally in Lima on Wednesday night was filled with well-dressed, well-heeled supporters.

The other rallies were notable for their shabbily dressed hordes. Señor Glen Ore, a metallurgical engineer from Huancayo who drives a taxi because he cannot find work in his field, was not surprised. "Look, if you are not white in this country, you do not have the same chances. And he represents their (upper class) interests, not mine."

The Congressional candidate likely to draw the most votes is Señor Fernando Olivera, a lively independent whose only campaign promise is that he will sweep away corruption.

Señor Vargas Llosa has run a multi-million-dollar campaign, allied himself with parties that have governed the country badly in the past, and traded bitter insults with his rivals. Few Peruvians today think of him as the respected, independent novelist of just two years ago.

Mujahidin kill general

Herat — Several people, including an Afghan general, were killed and others wounded when Mujahidin rebels pretending to surrender opened fire at a ceremony 25 miles from here. Mr. Fazle Haq Khaliq Yar, the provincial governor, was the first to be shot as he addressed the rebels. (AFP)

Suspect dies

Mogadishu — Mr. Yusuf Gubad, arrested two weeks ago on suspicion of murdering a British employee of the World Bank in Somalia, has died of injuries inflicted by his gangster friends, police said. No injuries were mentioned at the time of his arrest. (AFP)

Rich man held

Hanoi — Mr. Huynh Bin Hot, who said he was Vietnam's richest man, has been arrested and will be charged with smuggling and with corruption. (AFP)

Floor recovered

Amman — Police have arrested three people and recovered an early Islamic mosaic floor stolen from a desert castle in Jordan. (Reuters)

Gas flow begins

Nicosia — Iranian exports of natural gas to the Soviet Union are to start on Monday. (Reuters)

Quebec setback

Ottawa — A plan to end Quebec Province's constitutional isolation from the rest of Canada had a setback when the Newfoundland legislature voted to rescind its earlier ratification of the plan.

Beirut fighting

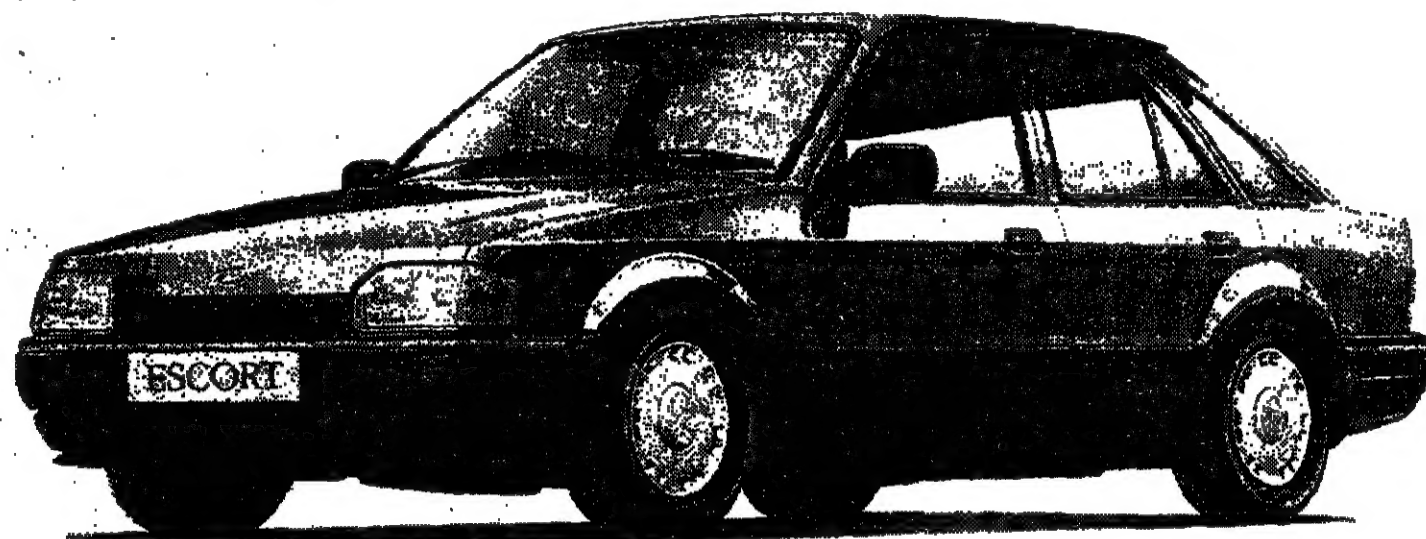
West Beirut — As a countdown for a final showdown seemed to have started in the Christian Lebanese sector, fighting between rival Christian forces resumed in and around east Beirut.

Leader goes

Sydney — Mr. Charles Blum, the leader of Australia's embattled National Party, has announced his resignation, the third party leader to fall victim to the recent election.

Hit the jackpot

Madrid — An unidentified Spaniard from Galicia hit the jackpot by winning a record \$5.6 million in the state lottery. (Reuters)



We can't offer you any less than 0% interest, so we're offering you longer to pay.

Interest free credit has been extended on 1.1, 1.3 litre petrol and 1.8 diesel Escorts and Orions to two years instead of the usual one year period.

So, for example, you can get a new Escort from as little as £136.46 per month. If you'd like even longer to pay, Ford Credit also offer a range of other finance plans, giving you a greater choice than ever of how to pay.

The plans are available until June 4th, 1990.

We've recently reduced the maximum retail price of L models by £500.

And for only £8,579,† the previous

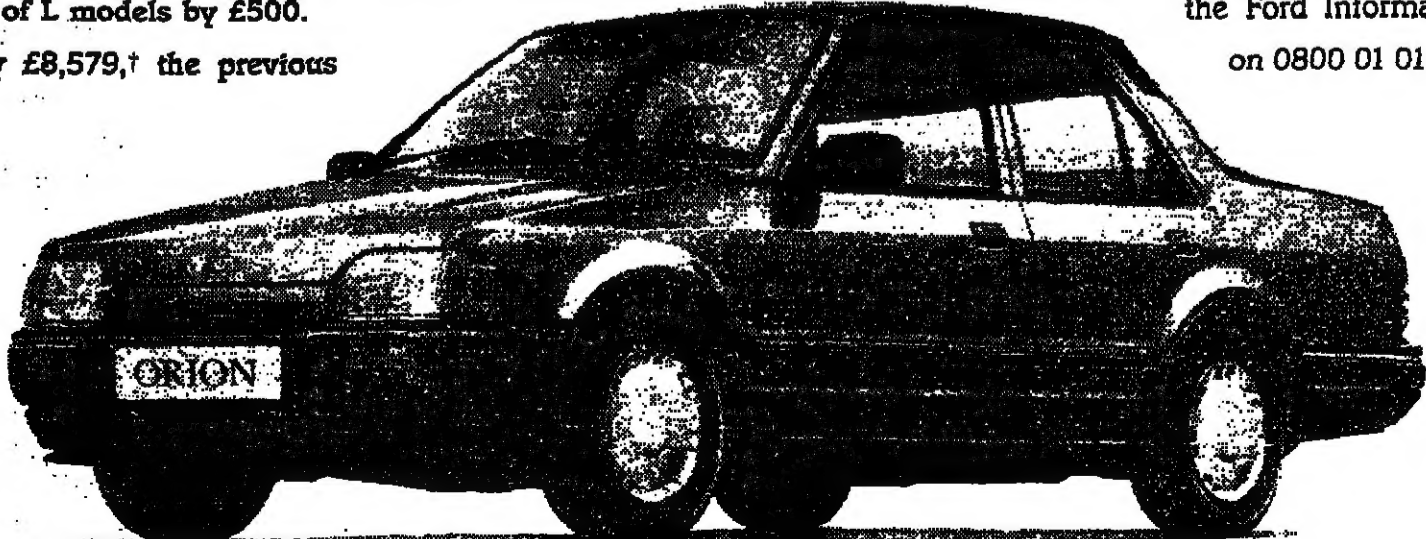
	ESCORT 1.1i 5-door	ESCORT 1.3i 5-door	ORION 1.3i	ORION 1.8i
Cash Price (including delivery)	£6550.00	£8579.00	£8320.00	£8820.00
0% (APR 0.0%)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 50%)	£3274.95	£4289.48	£4160.08	£4410.00
24 Monthly Payments of	£136.46	£178.73	£173.33	£183.75
Charge for Credit	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Credit Price	£6550.00	£8579.00	£8320.00	£8820.00
6.9% (APR 13.4%)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 33%)	£2161.50	£2831.07	£2745.80	£2910.60
36 Monthly Payments of	£147.14	£192.72	£186.90	£198.13
Charge for Credit	£908.54	£1189.99	£1154.00	£1223.28
Total Credit Price	£7456.54	£9768.99	£9474.00	£10043.28
7.9% (APR 15.1%)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 30%)	£1310.00	£1715.80	£1664.00	£1764.00
48 Monthly Payments of	£143.66	£188.17	£182.49	£193.45
Charge for Credit	£1655.48	£2168.96	£2103.52	£2229.60
Total Credit Price	£8205.68	£10747.96	£10423.52	£11049.60

These Low Rate Finance Plans are subject to credit approval and apply to Orion cars and Escort cars and Estates registered between April 1st and June 4th 1990 and which are subject to Conditional Sale Agreements arranged by participating Ford dealers and underwritten by Ford Motor Credit Company Limited. The Drive, Sherrwood, Essex CM13 3AP. Applicants must be over 18 years of age and credit worthy. Guarantees and intermediaries may be required. Please note various factory fitted options, Ford's optional warranty (Extra Cover) and Ford Credit's Protected Payments Plan are available at extra cost. †Maximum retail price as at February 22nd 1990 including delivery. Delivery is to dealer premises with exception of Channel Islands and Isle of Wight when a further charge will be made.

price of an L model*, our LX gives you a host of features as standard, including:

- Tilt-or-slide glass sunroof
- Electronic AM/FM stereo radio/cassette
- 5-speed gearbox
- Tinted glass
- Split rear seatback
- Tachometer
- Central locking
- Quartz digital clock

And don't forget that, as part of Ford's new Aftercare package, every new Ford comes with one year's free RAC membership. For the location of your nearest Ford dealer, who will be happy to give you written quotations, please call the Ford Information Service free on 0800 01 01 12.



The Escort and Orion.



*Compared to maximum retail price prior to February 22nd 1990.

TIMES DIARY SIMON BARNES

Bridgetown, Barbados

Ugliness is all around me. As I write from the Kensington Oval press box between overs during the fourth Test, I see on all sides a repellent breed of contempt. These Englishmen abroad are a far cry from the gentlemen followers of Test teams in the past. They are clad in shorts of low comedy and shirts (when a shirt is worn at all) carrying some such slogan as "Save water, drink beer", which they do in vast quantities. So much indeed, that Banks Brewery is in danger of running dry.

The Brits have been arriving here in unprecedented numbers. Hotels are booked solid; you cannot hire a mini-mo, the standard tourist transport. Union Jacks surround the ground, many bearing the name of a football club. And as they drink away, and talk away, with their "Goochie" and their "Lambie" that, the vibes I get are bad. May they confine the violence of which they seem so capable to the aesthetics of the occasion.

Readers of elephantine memory will recall a sprightly correspondence in this column about the sighting of rare birds on cricket pitches. One high spot of the week was the visit of an osprey to the Oval during the one-day game on Tuesday.

Although cricket is king, Barbados is abuzz with its first season of Davis Cup tennis, in which it has already despatched Bolivia and the Bahamas. What is the secret of this new excellence? The answer is plenty of practice against a 13-year-old American girl, Jennifer Capriati. She is the latest sensation on the women's circuit and employs the leading Bajan player, Richard Ashby, normally resident in Florida, as a hitting partner. I'm told that anyone who can take a few points off Jennifer has got to be good.

At this time of year, wherever you go in the world, the Grand National casts its spell. My racing snout advises the adventurous to disregard those unprepossessing black blinkers and the statistics stacked against him and back Ghofar to become the first seven-year-old winner since Bosker in 1940. His each-way choice: Uncle Merlin, from America.

The bizarre rumblings about the sale of Canova's "The Three Graces" have reached my ears even here. However, even if he stuns does go to America, Britain will still possess another version of The Three Graces, which I reproduce. The



Graces—yes, the three cricketing brothers—are, I learn from the forthcoming *Wisden Book of Cricket Memorabilia*, the work of Howard Carter, stand 35 inches high in painted wood, and are part of an oeuvre notable for its vicarious nostalgia. And Carter's work is a bargain compared to Canova's: it sold recently for a mere £5,000.

Once again, this column turns to cocklekeys, and an old friend, Roberto Rojas of Chile. As you will recall, he was banned for life after causing a match against Brazil to be called off, claiming he had been injured when struck on the head by a firework. Rojas's wife has written to João Havelange, president of Fifa, seeking a pardon, pointing out that they are both good Catholics. Havelange's reply was a masterpiece of self-righteousness, surely something he was warned about in the catechism. "I responded I was Catholic too, but I try not to sin so I won't have to ask for pardon." It strikes me that Señor Havelange errs in his theology. Besides, this is the column that believes in forgiveness for erring goals.

Throughout the Caribbean, the talk is of the Harrogate and District League, and that body's cup final, which pitted Boroughbridge against Aberford Albion. Albion won a bruising game 2-0, and the medal ceremony followed. Or rather it didn't. Instead, there was a major punch-up involving 50 people, mostly Boroughbridge supporters and Albion players. The trophy table was overturned and the medals were scattered all over the place. This is the sort of thing that happens when you get big crowds: the fixture attracted a passionate 400. The presentation was cancelled in despair, an inquiry is to be held, and all concerned have been instructed to say nothing to anybody.

THE world, I think, is divided into rebels and sneaks. Most of us are sneaks. In spirit we are rebels, but when it comes to the crunch we end up doing the sneaky thing.

My grandfather recognized the trait. He used to tease my grandmother for her timidity about swimming. When there was a sunny day abroad and a beach nearby, Nana would cry "Hooray! let's go swimming!" Then she would don a remarkable bathing costume and advance fearfully towards the sea. By now the rest of us, urged on by her example, would be in and swimming. But Nana never quite did. She would get to the shallow part, still calling "Hooray!" and advance no further.

"Mentally," said Grandad, who had a dry wit and a modern turn of phrase, "Alice is a swimmer. But physically she has never quite made it."

The Conservative Party is in a state of worry and turmoil after a black few weeks in which Labour has gone 24 points ahead and Mrs Thatcher's popularity has sunk to a new low. But Tories should not overdo the jitters. Macaulay famously wrote, in his essay on Byron: "We know no spectacle so ridiculous as the British public in one of its periodical fits of morality." Substitute "The Conservative Party in one of its periodical fits of panic", and you have the appropriate words for the current situation.

The intrigues who chatter or whisper about ousting the Prime Minister should take a glance at the history of their party. Of course history is not an infallible guide—historical precedents are often broken—yet the past throws at least some light on the present, and a person who takes no account of it is a fool.

Conservatives have often jettisoned their leaders, but almost always when in opposition, not in office. Until 1975 this was never the result of a party vote. There was a great press campaign against Balfour after 1910 when he had lost three successive general elections. The slogan coined by a high-Tory editor was BMG: "Balfour Must Go". And Balfour decided that

Robert Blake offers little historical comfort to disaffected Tories

Can Thatcher be ousted?

he would go. He had had enough. He lacked the energy and will-power to respond, and he resigned voluntarily, though he subsequently had a long and successful career in lesser offices. Stanley Baldwin was repeatedly attacked, in 1923-24 and in 1929-31, after losing elections which resulted in hung parliaments with Labour precariously in office. In March 1931 he nearly resigned, and the editor of *The Times*, Geoffrey Dawson (who was a close friend), had ready an article headed "Mr Baldwin Withdraws". At the last moment Baldwin decided to hold on and hit back. His opponents, the great press barons Rothermere and Beaverbrook, overplayed their hands.

Baldwin survived to become first the anchorman and finally prime minister of the National Coalition of 1931-37.

In 1965, Sir Alec Douglas-Home (as he then was) decided to resign after very narrowly losing the election of the previous year. There was a fair

amount of internal party criticism, but it does not seem to have been on the scale of that which Baldwin survived or that which made Balfour retire. Meanwhile Sir Alec had bequeathed to the party an important innovation: a formal leadership election system. It is a quirk of history that this had not been created long before. By chance the changes in the Conservative leadership through retirement or illness had nearly always occurred when the party was in office. So it had been content to accept "the normal processes of consultation" by the Crown as the means of appointing the new prime minister, who was then automatically elected leader at a party meeting.

The only exception was Bonar Law, who in 1911 was elected leader of the party in the Commons, which at that time did not necessarily mean the leadership of the party as a whole. In the event, the election was a walkover, for both his rivals withdrew.

The Douglas-Home procedure was used to elect Edward Heath in preference to Reginald Maudling in 1965, and under a modified form of it, Mrs Thatcher defeated Heath 10 years later. In neither case were the Conservatives in office.

It was also under this procedure that Sir Anthony Meyer made his challenge to the Prime Minister last year. No doubt a similar challenge could be made again, but it is difficult to believe that the challenger would have much chance of success.

Very seldom in British history has a sitting prime minister of any party been ousted by an internal party vote. In modern times, nearly all prime ministers have either retired voluntarily or fallen at a general election. It is sometimes said that after Suez the Tories would have forced Anthony Eden to resign had he not done so because of ill health, but I have never seen convincing evidence of this. Prime ministers with large parliamentary majorities are almost irremovable,

unless they remove themselves.

Two exceptions might be cited. Peel in 1846 was certainly ousted by a party revolt, but a major issue of policy was involved, not just a general feeling of unease over unpopular measures. By repealing the Corn Laws he was killing a Tory sacred cow. He split the party wide open and was supported by only a minority. The other exception was Neville Chamberlain, who suffered massive defections, though not enough for defeat, on a vote of confidence in the House of Commons in May 1940. He could not dissolve in wartime, but decided on resignation in order to make possible a coalition government.

Mrs Thatcher is not likely to suffer the defeat incurred by Peel or the parliamentary loss of confidence which obliged Chamberlain to retire. She has not split the party ideologically like Peel or temperamentally like Chamberlain. In terms of party leadership, she is well placed to defy all challengers.

Lord Salisbury easily outmanoeuvred Randolph Churchill in 1886. Joseph Chamberlain did not even attempt to push out Balfour in 1905, though he was just as deep in trouble with the party as he was six years later. The difference was that he was prime minister.

It will be surprising if any serious potential successor puts his name down as an opponent of Mrs Thatcher in a party election in the autumn. That is not how Conservatives order these things. The best course for the aspirants is to do nothing and leave it to the Prime Minister to decide whether and when to bow out. An attempt to overthrow her would do the party far more harm than any which she can do by remaining, even on the most critical assessment. When Disraeli overthrew Peel, he doomed his party to 28 years of impotence.

Of course there are plenty of contenders for the post. This has been so throughout its history. There is nothing disreputable about such ambition as long as those concerned are content to wait upon time and event. Loyalty, or at least its appearance, still matters—as Mr Heseltine clearly appreciates. Lord Blake is the author of *The Conservative Party from Peel to Thatcher* (1985).

Measuring up for a mantle of greatness

Whether or not the age of ideologies has ended, in the last decade of the 20th century, the man of destiny will surely return. The great man, as an explanatory tool, has been out of fashion ever since the defeat of Nazism and fascism and then the subsequent discrediting of the cult of personality within the communist world.

The ready resort to notions of historical greatness, which had characterized civilized discourse in the last century, abruptly ceased to be respectable in learned circles. Biography became separated from history proper, and its practitioners for the most part detached themselves from the academic world. Dr Johnson's old dictum that biography is the most profitable branch of history was forgotten or disregarded.

Instead, sociology and economics imposed a kind of greenhouse effect upon the mental environment. Once the heroic interpretation of history was discredited, derivatives of Marxism—drained of all the eschatological drama of the original—gradually stifled the older humility which had respected the unpredictability of historical events.

The primacy of socio-economic categories in explaining historical phenomena was taken virtually for granted by many historians and thinkers who were emphatically not Marxists. The last half-century may come to be seen as a distinct period of historiography: one characterized by demotion of the individual from historical agent to passive subject.

Great men became steadily rarer on the political stage. Only in the developing world was the charismatic personality still more than a *quantité négligable*. In Europe, only a handful of figures whose mythical status derived from the intense experience of victory and defeat still held the stage in the 1960s: Churchill, Adenauer, de Gaulle. By the 1970s the last survivors of the last heroic age—Franco, Tito, Mao—reached senility.

It was a period in which politicians had few pretensions to greatness. Academics were still unable to predict events in any detail; but since little changed in the structures of power, this mattered less than it had during the less stable epoch between the wars. Mrs Thatcher probably deserves the accolade of greatness as much as many of her predecessors, but the mental climate has been adverse to any such acknowledgement. John Paul II, who in any other age would have been revered as a very great pope, has been treated with suspicion by Western intellectuals.

Now the picture has changed again. Over the last decade, several personalities have emerged in Eastern Europe who seem to possess that titanic quality which the Swiss historian Jacob Burckhardt defined as his-



Daniel Johnson believes this new age of revolutions must surely produce leaders of heroic stature

torische Größe: Gorbachov, Walesa, Havel.

Western figures, too—though previously at a disadvantage—now have the opportunity to acquire the elusive nimbus. Kohl and Mitterrand, though both machine politicians who rose conventionally within an existing system, now have the chance to compete with Adenauer and de Gaulle. Bush, whose lack of individuality now seems in such stark contrast to Kennedy, Nixon or even Reagan, might yet make a name for himself greater than any president's since Franklin Roosevelt.

Will our historians, too, need to change tack? Certainly the authors of the theory of great men a century and more ago were clear in their minds that there was a connection between revolution and heroism.

Thomas Carlyle, whose *Heroes and Hero-Worship* was the theory's most influential single manifesto, had no doubt that he

was living in a volcanic epoch which consequently demanded the qualities of the hero.

In his inaugural address at Edinburgh of 1866, given even before Bismarck had completed his revision of the map of Europe, Carlyle said: "We have got into the age of revolutions. All kinds of things are coming to be subjected to fire, as it were: hotter and hotter blows the element round everything. Curious to see how, in Oxford and other places, they used to seem as lying at anchor in the stream of time, regardless of all changes, they are getting into the highest humour of mutation, and all sorts of new ideas are afloat."

Perhaps Oxford and the other universities which have tended to discount the influence of leadership on political change will find that today's "heat of mutation" causes them to discard some of the socio-economic baggage that signally failed to predict the present crisis. But it

would be a mistake—of the sub-Marxist variety—to postulate any necessary link between the present European revolutions and a renaissance of methodological individualism.

In the aftermath of what he called the "world crisis" of 1914-18, that shrewd French historiographer Elie Halévy "looked for the 'causes' or 'responsibilities' of the War, not in the acts of individual statesmen, but in collective anonymous forces, against which individual statesmen were powerless." But he did not mean to imply "the bankruptcy of statesmanship". His point was, rather, "to shift the responsibility for the evils under which mankind labours, from the statesmen to us, the common people, ourselves. The wisdom or folly of our statesmen is merely the reflection of our own wisdom or folly."

That is a salutary reminder in an age when democracy is spreading to regions which have scarcely ever tasted it before. Nelson Mandela, for example, is the object of a hero-cult, but he is also the prisoner of his constituency. Outside prison, heroism is not easily practised, particularly if it involves telling one's supporters unwelcome truths.

The dangers inherent in the attribution of exaggerated powers to the great man have become unfamiliar since we observers in the 1930s were against the hypertrophy of hero-worship. The Dutch medievalist Johann Huizinga wrote in 1936 that "the exaltation of the heroic is itself a crisis phenomenon. It shows that the ideas of service, task and fulfillment of duty no longer exercise the necessary motive power on the public at large. They have to be amplified as through a loudspeaker."

Huizinga went on to identify the sinister consequence of preaching violence from the pulpit of authority: "As exponents of the heroic task the political tide will only too easily wash up those elements who find in the perpetration of violence the gratification of their animal or pathological instincts."

He had in mind the Nazis, of course; but his criticisms are still valid today when applied to the popular liberation movements of Eastern Europe and the developing world. Ceausescu's fall may temporarily have eclipsed the tradition of hero-worship in Europe; but in Cuba the oligarchy of the blindly obedient still maintains Castro in absolute power.

And what of Russia? Gorbachov is magnifying his own authority as that of the Party diminishes towards a vanishing point no longer far distant. Who are the people on his coast-tails? And how will he control them? As Huizinga wrote: "A rigidly disciplined military authority may perhaps keep them within certain bounds. In the fanaticism of a popular movement, however, they will become the henchmen of murder."

Clifford Longley finds inconsistency in the new mixed-marriage ruling

Catholics in confusion

No-popery, it has been said, is the residual religion of the English, suggesting that the worst fate that can befall a residually religious Englishman is to want to marry a Roman Catholic. For his children, it is well known, would have to be brought up Catholics too. And Catholicism is an earnest sort of religion which has the temerity, in secular English eyes, to believe itself to be true.

In Northern Ireland, many well-meant English solutions to the communal rivalries—non-sectarian schooling, say, or more inter-marriage (which mixed schools would undoubtedly lead to)—founder on this sharp rock. It is true that one of the ways in which different communities have commonly learnt in the past to get on with one another has been the practice of exogamy, which, as differences dissolve in the intimacy of kitchen and bedroom, gradually becomes indistinguishable from endogamy. But not when religion is the dividing line and one of the religions is Roman Catholicism, for rather than coalescing, it tends to absorb other tribes into itself.

Many a non-Catholic married to a Catholic will know what this feels like, at least once they have children. Even in "Protestant" England there must be at least a million such families.

The Roman Catholic Church seeks to control the religion of the children of such mixed marriages by requiring from the Catholic partner, as a condition of the marriage being allowed, that a formal promise be made. The other partner is no longer required to agree to it, nor, in England at least, does it have to be in writing. Nevertheless it is a formal and formidable commitment, and the other partner has to know about it.

From the end of this month, for Catholics in England and Wales, the key passage in the promise will have a slightly different form: "I sincerely undertake that I will do all that I can within the unity of our partnership to have all the children of our marriage baptised and brought up in the Catholic Church." The words "within the unity of our partnership" are new, and represent a response to the complaint that without such a qualification, the promise could wreck the marriage itself. The security of the marriage, clearly, is even more important than passing on the Catholic faith to the children, which is therefore no longer insisted upon as the absolute priority.

All official Catholic documents, particularly those based on Canon Law, require considerable deciphering, and this new Directory on mixed marriages is a classic of the type. As well as the regulations, it contains a long commentary which makes decoding it only slightly less of an adventure. This states, for in-

stance, that the obligation on a Catholic to have his children raised in the same faith is *A Divinis*—a matter of Divine Law, not a man-made rule of the church which could be altered: "individual Catholics must recognize a God-given obligation to do all that is possible to preserve their own faith and to pass on that faith to their children."

Nevertheless it is said that non-Catholic partners "will certainly recognize for themselves an obligation to do all that they can to pass on to their children their own deeply held religious convictions". What this seems to be trying to say is important, for it is probably the first time an official Catholic document has been so generally sympathetic towards the rights of the other party. On the other hand, it does not say that the Catholic Church or the Catholic partner ought to "recognize" that obligation. "Recognize for themselves" is an odd and empty phrase.

In this context, recognition of the obligation by the Catholic Church is the only recognition that means anything. But for the Catholic Church to say it recognized the obligations of the other partner would be for it to accept a symmetry of moral obligations of equal and opposite force, which, by cancelling each other out, would leave the couple free to do whatever they agreed. Nor would it help (even if it made sense) to recognize the other obligation yet think of it as somehow less binding. When a card is going to be beaten by an ace, it makes no difference whether it is a king or a two. A lesser obligation is, in this context, no obligation at all.

For all its quiet reasonableness, the Directory is unconvincing in its argument at this point: the faith is a "precious gift"; a good parent would therefore want to pass it on; the Catholic Church believes it is not just one church among many, and others cannot expect Catholics to deny their deepest beliefs. All this is unexceptionable, and indeed will impress many non-Catholics as evidence of a church confident of itself, but non-Catholics could just as well say the same about their own faith, or even lack of one.

Now that the promise has been made subject to the overriding qualification "within the unity of our partnership", the door has been opened for the introduction of another overriding qualification, for which there is already good authority in Catholic doctrine: the duty of everyone, Catholic or not, to obey his own conscience. The curious phrase "recognize for themselves" seems to imply that non-Catholics should not expect the Catholic Church or their Catholic partners to recognize that they have such an obligation. That is contrary to Catholic doctrine on the rights of conscience. And that too is held to be *A Divinis*.

Mind you, I haven't said a word



MATTHEW PARRIS

to my...tiddy-om-pom-pom. The tidiness, meanwhile, has not said a word either. We have only guessed it, and we are laughing because we know the others have guessed it too. In

short, the outrageous has been indicated beyond all doubt, but there is no author, therefore no culprit, and therefore no crime. Some cockney rhyming-slang ("berk"—Berkley Hunt is an example) relies on the same technique. Nobody, nobody at all, actually said it. Modesty forbids... It is the humour not of the rebel, but of the gentle sneak. I love it. As a child I used to plot with classmates to ask Mrs MacLeod what was the highest navigable lake in the world, so that we could giggle when she said Titicaca. Once we persuaded her to repeat "iced-ink" over and over again, very fast until she realized. Later I was disciplined

for blacking out one of the Queen Mother's teeth in one of my school textbooks.

"But sir," I protested to the fearsome Mr Moffat, "I didn't draw anything rude. It was just a small ink-blot. How can an ink-blot be rude?"

My friend David drew horns on a photograph of the Pope and wrote a rude word underneath. David was a true rebel, not a sneak. David was camed. I was not, and I learned from the comparison. Now, in the privacy of my home, I twiddle the colour control knob and make Mrs Thatcher go green and purple.

Riding on the London Underground, pondering the humour of

the sneak, I chanced to see a clever poster advertising the Eagle Star Insurance Company. On a whole sheet of close-typed jargon starting "All parties of the first part shall be known in this poster as Eagle Star..." most of the words are neatly struck through, leaving just a handful—

one on each line, interspersed among the others—which are effectively highlighted by not being deleted. They read: "All Eagle Star pension ideas are written in plain English."

I chuckled. It was late. I was alone in the carriage. I had a fip-top pen. An official notice by the door read "Obstructing the doors causes delay and can be dangerous." Or, after a little penmanship, "Obstruct the doors cause delay and be dangerous." Yes, I know it isn't original. Anyway, Mr/Lud, I blame it on Eagle Star.

مكتبة الأمل



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RATES WITH KNOBS ON

One sign of the trauma that Mrs Thatcher's poll tax has inflicted on British politics is the turmoil into which it has cast even its opponents. Yesterday, the chief beneficiary of the tax, the Labour Party, attempted once again to present its "alternative". Confusion is hardly any less confounded. The party's environment spokesman, Mr Bryan Gould, might be well advised to keep quiet for the moment and leave the Conservatives to tear themselves apart unaided.

None the less, some dim clues are emerging from the so far impenetrable fog of Mr Gould's mind. He realizes that the central question of local finance is whether to tax property or whether to tax income. He realizes that, since some variety in the source of taxes is a virtue, property is the better answer. He realizes that because such a tax is compulsory, a "progressive" element is essential if people are to regard it as fair: it must fall more heavily on the rich than on the poor. Last, and this was new at Thursday's press conference, he realizes that relating any local property tax to gross household income is fiendishly difficult.

Mr Gould spoke last week of relating his revival of a property tax to "ability to pay". But ability to pay implies a test of means. A test of means implies the assessment and policing of the income of somebody, perhaps everybody, in each household. It was to avoid this can of worms that Mr Kenneth Baker and his acolytes came up with the flat-rate poll tax. In its search for ability-to-pay, Labour claims to be undecided between a complete income-related local tax based on the number of residents per household, and a tax imposed irrespective of the incomes of house occupants, except for a rebate for the poor (as with the rates).

If Labour has any sense at all it will opt for the latter. Discretionary property taxes, excluding business rates, last year accounted for only some 20 per cent of local revenue. The Government has argued that this 20 per cent should be levied on every citizen at a flat rate, and has duly found this regressive and unpopular. Rebates to avoid the community charge falling harshly on the poor have proved

insufficient to establish it as fair. Labour has therefore wisely sought salvation in relating the tax to property (as do most countries), offering the opportunity of "progression" without directly attaching to income.

The issue that Labour must still resolve is how far such a property tax should reflect the wealth implied by the occupation of living space. Rates did this by valuing properties according to a notional rental and levying a poundage accordingly. If many people crowded into a cheap property, their individual payments would be low. If a single person chose to occupy a large and valuable property, they would pay more: such is the essence of a property tax. One of the virtues of rates — though politicians seemed chary of admitting it — was that they encouraged the subletting of under-occupied property and thus helped meet Britain's most acute supply-side shortage, of flexible housing for rent.

Labour has been murmuring about linking its new property tax either to living space or to capital value. The former would neglect the wealth element in property and be a curious innovation for a Labour government. The latter would be little different from the "rental valuation" of the old rates, though the adjustment exercise would be painful in individual cases. Simpler for the time being would be for Labour to stop all this nonsense and revert to the existing rating lists.

The difficulty is that Labour seems as mesmerized as are the Tories by Mrs Thatcher's damnation of the rates — though a 24-point lead in the polls should help Mr Neil Kinnock overcome such mesmerism. After all, a property-value based local tax with rebates can be presented as a sensible updating of the old system. It is preferable to poll tax and certainly to a second, local, income tax. Nobody, certainly not Mr Kinnock, would want the class warriors of Liverpool or Camden looting the incomes of their middle-class citizens to enrich trade union coffers.

Presumably Mr Gould must agonize a little longer before coming to a conclusion. But please let him do so quickly — and before, not after, the next election.

KEEPING 'PR' IN PROPORTION

It is sad proof of the restricted intellectual horizons of the past half-century that, amid all the enthusiasm about democracy in Eastern Europe, so little debate has taken place about how that democracy should best be expressed in electoral form. It is particularly important that countries which are divided along ethnic lines should think carefully before opting for a system of proportional representation, which may so easily create blocking minorities at a time when unpopular changes are imperative.

Few recent political spectacles have been as quaint as that of the Israeli Knesset hanging on the every word of the aged Rabbi Schach, the most prominent of the Orthodox leaders who presently hold the balance of power. Longevity, piety and gravitas have much to commend them in a religious leader, but they do not qualify this patriarchal figure to exercise such extraordinary power over the temporal fortunes of his countrymen.

This object lesson in the difficulty of combining pure proportional representation with good government is taking place when a number of former communist states are embracing free elections. East Germany has voted already and both Hungary and Slovenia go to the polls this weekend.

An electoral system for a nation that lacks experience in parliamentary democracy must be capable of delivering two things. It must produce strong government, which means that a working majority for a single party should be the normal result. It must also make possible a stable and responsible opposition elite capable of conducting a smooth and peaceful transition following an election victory.

Hitherto, only Hungary has chosen a system that has aroused any passion. A referendum was held about the order in which the parliamentary and the presidential elections should take place. The system under which the nation will vote tomorrow contains elements of proportional and first-past-the-post systems. Two large parties are expected to dominate the new parliament, but the smaller parties may still enjoy disproportionate power.

East Germany was faced with Hobson's

Choice by its imminent reunification with the Federal Republic, one of the few states which may plausibly claim to be a good advertisement for proportional representation. Elsewhere in central Europe, the problem of yielding stable government from a myriad of minority parties is less easily soluble, but it is the West German model which is inclining them to favour proportional representation.

The West German system depended from its inception on the continuity of the two large parties with their pre-Nazi forerunners. The present condition of the ex-communist countries is less favourable to the emergence of a two-party system. The model was intended to prevent the fragmentation of the non-totalitarian parties which bedevilled the Weimar Republic. The result has been to guarantee the liberal Free Democrats in office, coalescing with whichever of the two big parties is in the ascendancy.

Most Germans are satisfied with this, but it has meant that a small minority has controlled many areas of policy. Where this minority's outlook is mainstream and pragmatic there is little to fear. In France, however, it was the experiment of proportional representation which enabled the far-right National Front to establish itself in the Chambre des Députés — an experiment since abandoned.

In Eastern Europe such a dominant minority is more likely to parallel the extremism of Israel's fringes, thereby adding a severely destabilizing element to what is anyway a volatile concoction. Yugoslavia, Romania and Bulgaria are additionally handicapped by severe ethnic divisions, while Poland and Czechoslovakia have less visible but still profound tensions. President Havel showed great wisdom when he, a Czech, insisted that Mr Dubcek, a Slovak, should hold the second highest ceremonial office of state.

There is, however, an alternative. Britain and the United States have always elected their representatives by a simple majority. The new governments of central Europe should prefer the Anglo-Saxon path to democracy.

MYSTERIOUS TENDENCY

Among the first court hearings of offences arising from the poll-tax riots, there was one defendant who was fined £50 "for stealing a bucket and a pile of the *Militant* newspaper". We have in our time come upon many a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma, but this one is in addition stuffed with a secret, covered in a puzzle and stored in a problem.

In the first place, how badly can a man need a bucket that he stoops to stealing one? After all, any hardware shop will provide a wide range of buckets — plastic, zinc, rubber, iron — at most reasonable prices, and if the miscreant was too poor to buy even the simplest version, he must have had an odd sense of priorities to feel that his first and greatest need was a bucket.

But that is not all. Where was the bucket when he succumbed to temptation? Buckets are not usually to be found poking out of the back pockets of absent-minded passers-by, and there was no mention of breaking and entering. If there had been, it would only have made the whole thing more incomprehensible still, for surely no one, having cast legality to the winds, would break a window to get a bucket when next door he could have helped himself to a trayful of watches and rings, and a few steps along the street a dashing blazer or a pair of the finest leather shoes.

And that is only the bucket: what about the pile of *Militant*? Tastes in periodical reading differ widely, of course, and it would be invidious to argue that, because we take the *Classical Quarterly* and the *Journal of Quantitative Spectroscopy and Radiative Transfer*, we

are superior to those who prefer the *Beano* and *Militant*. But what can even the most devoted follower of the famous Tendency get out of reading 40 copies of the same issue of the paper? Perhaps he had long nursed a secret longing to sell *Militant* at street corners, but in that case he would have had no need to break the law, at the very sight of a new recruit the leaders (if, indeed, that implacably egalitarian organization will own to leaders) would have stuffed a bundle of the current fortnightly under his arm and told him not to come back to the office until he had sold the lot.

An even more far-fetched explanation would have it that our villain was no villain but a hero, snatching the papers with intent to destroy them, lest young and impressionable passers-by might read them and be instantly converted to the cause of revolution. But that, apart from being inherently unlikely (what was he doing in the middle of a riot?), wholly fails to explain the bucket. Less likely still is the theory that his roof had sprung a leak, and that he took the bucket to put under the drips and the *Militants* to stuff into the hole, for if that was the trouble he would hardly have needed both solutions at once.

"There's a hole in my bucket, dear Liza, dear Liza..." Then mend it, dear Johnnie, dear Johnnie..." Thus went the old song, rather lugubriously. But the point of it, in so far as it had one, was that it came back to where it started, with the bucket still holed. We give up, too; if Liza and Johnnie got nowhere with a bucket alone, they can hardly jeer at us for failing with the extra burden of *Militant*.

Interpretation of embryo's rights

From Mr John Hartland
Sir, Lady Oppenheimer, writing on embryo research (March 30), makes precisely the inference from nature's prodigality which Cardinal Hume (article, March 16) would disallow. He would disallow it on grounds which are both moral and theological. There is a need for caution, certainly in analogy. Can it be less significant to violate the rights of a citizen of China than of Liechtenstein? But caution is not the same as dismissing the possibility of any legitimate inference in the direction of Lady Oppenheimer's position, albeit in radically different terms.

The theological ground pertains to the notion of a sacred or miraculous event. The cardinal appeals to "contemporary scientific knowledge" and invokes notions of "uniqueness" and "continuous development" to establish fertilisation as this event. But these notions, as indeed the notion of nature's prodigality, belong merely to the realm of human perception. Applied to interpret the data with which we are confronted, there is no *prima facie* case for regarding fertilisation rather than implantation as the critical discontinuity from which a unique relationship arises: "Thou shalt conceive..."

Must we, in a universe to be regarded as at least fractionally intelligible, suppose that none of the human intelligences inclined to this latter interpretation and moved by the impulse to enable couples to have healthy rather than grievously handicapped children is informed by "right reason" or a sense of divine order?

The cardinal does not choose to address this question, which is none the less the focus of currents of theological speculation this side of the Channel and has even surfaced in deliberations of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly.

The cardinal's justice of tone and conveyance of the gravity of the issue make one wish his text to be read by everyone involved in the legislative process. But in the last analysis his invocation of the concepts and data of observational science to deny the possibility of an essential difference between pre-implantation and post-implantation embryos is an affirmation of authority. It risks being felt as an intrusion.
Yours sincerely,
JOHN HARTLAND,
6 rue de Montmorency,
F67060 Strasbourg,
France.
April 4.

Wine additive

From Dr John Penman
Sir, In your third leader of April 3 you comment on the Food and Drug Administration of the USA and its ban on wine containing procymidone.

What makes this instance of FDA vigilance particularly poignant is that nobody claims that procymidone does people any harm. The trouble lies with FDA regulations which hold that artificial additives... not expressly permitted are forbidden.

The FDA, with that same vigilance which you deplore, banned thiodimide at a time when nobody or scarcely anybody claimed that it did people any harm; and in consequence many thousands of US citizens have normal bodies, who otherwise would lack one or more limbs.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PENMAN,
Forest View,
Upper Chute,
Andover, Hampshire.

Tirreum proposal

From Mr T. K. Hitchens
Sir, George Hill's article about the Tirreum Trust's plans for Drake's Island (April 2) prompts me to wonder how English Heritage and the planning authorities will view these proposals. Such an inappropriate and unsympathetic project would swamp the unique little island that proudly reflects a thousand years of English history. Does British business really have £12 million to waste on sponsoring a Greek theme park?

Yours sincerely,
T. K. HITCHENS,
Brookside,
Looseleigh Cross,
Plymouth, Devon.

Missing cards

From Mrs A. L. Le Pla
Sir, Lady Scott's statement (April 2) could easily be resolved if greeting card manufacturers were to provide pretty cards with outline drawings of mother and baby, which Lady Scott would then colour to her required shade.

Yours faithfully,
ANN LE PLA,
Jackdaws, Church Lane,
Wivelsfield, East Sussex.
April 2.

Gallipoli campaign

From Lieutenant Colonel P. J. Fry
Sir, In his article of March 3, "Men so brave, orders so foolish", Brian James states that hundreds of Gurkhas, Gloucesters and Welch Fusiliers "finally took" the key peak of Chunuk Bair May 1 point out, for the sake of historical accuracy, that the heights of Chunuk Bair were captured by the men of the Wellington Regiment of the New Zealand Infantry Brigade on the morning of August 8, 1915.

The Wellingtons, under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel W. G. Malone, captured the crest and defended it throughout that day against repeated mass attacks.

Learning from Strangeways riot

From Mr Richard Henderson and others

Sir, In the wake of the rioting at Strangeways Prison, there is an aspect of penal policy which we feel needs to be highlighted and re-examined. As your leading article "Prison pressures" (April 3) points out, "The White Paper suggested, indeed came close to pleading, that the judiciary should confine custodial sentences to those guilty only of violent and sexual crimes and crimes associated with drugs". Our concern is with the inclusion of the sexual offender in this category.

It is a matter of record that while their problems remain untreated sex-offenders have one of the highest recidivism rates, but that this is greatly reduced among those, alas, very few, who have attended treatment programmes.

The public is absolutely right to be deeply concerned by such crimes, and to demand that action is taken against those who commit them. But we must surely question, given the high recidivism rate, whether it is right for the courts virtually automatically to send them to prison where only very small numbers indeed are offered any treatment.

In prison, nearly all sex-offenders are in voluntary segregation (Rule 43), and at Strangeways we have seen why this is so. On Rule 43 the prisoners, with even narrower horizons than the "morally upright" majority, are left to discuss and share their perversions; stories of, for example, witness statements circulating as pornography are not uncommon.

Accepting that in the most serious cases a prison sentence is inevitable, there is the risk that in spite of the excellent work being done in a few cases, a treatment programme run in a prison may be seen by the men as part of the oppressive regime and be shrugged off as irrelevant on release.

As probation officers working with sex-offenders, and particularly those who have committed offences against children, we feel that it is vitally important that the requirement to attend a non-custodial treatment programme is seen as a proper disposal by the courts.

Without the opportunity to run treatment programmes in suitable cases the probation service will remain severely restricted in protecting the next child who, given the recidivism rate, will be attacked.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HENDERSON,
ANTIA SYDOW,
JULIAN DAWES
(Probation officers),
Inner London Probation Service,
1a Alfred Street, E3.
April 5.

Aid to cathedrals

From the Right Reverend Dr R. D. Sey

Sir, The Chairman of English Heritage in his letter on the possibility of aid to cathedrals (April 2) states that the cathedrals do not receive State aid for repairs "at the wish of the Church of England itself".

In fact the General Synod has not been in a position to ask for help for cathedrals, because cathedral chapters have been unable or unwilling to be publicly accountable in the same way as parish churches are under the system of faculty jurisdiction. However, when the new Care of Cathedrals Measure becomes law, it seems likely that the degree of public accountability, which is implicit within its provisions, will enable the Deans and Provosts, if they so decide, to call the Synod to look for some help for cathedrals from public funds.

If that were to happen the first step undoubtedly would be that the Department of the Environment and English Heritage would require the commissioning of a fact-finding study designed to measure the extent of the help needed for Church of England and Roman Catholic cathedrals and

Measure for measure

From Mrs B. H. Parker

Sir, I am a primary school teacher and I despair. Last week the Duchess of York gave birth to a girl weighing 7lb 11oz. Yesterday my husband found an Ordnance Survey road atlas emblazoned "3 miles to 1 inch". Today I read that petrol is to cost £2 per gallon.

For 15 years I have taught exclusively the metric weights and measures system to my children in the belief that the Government was about to bring in the necessary legislation to ensure its use. Such a prospect seems to be more remote than ever before.

Yours sincerely,
S. J. PARKER,
Rook House, Victoria Road,
Dartmouth, Devon.
March 31.

They were supported by elements of the Gloucesters and the 8th Welch Pioneers who had followed up the Wellingtons' advance and later by other New Zealand units.

However, by nightfall Malone was dead and only 70 unwounded, or lightly wounded men were left of the 760 New Zealanders who had captured the hill that morning.

Elements of the Gurkhas did not reach the crest until the morning of August 9, when they were briefly on the saddle between

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

From Mr J. B. Hunter

Sir, As a Canadian prisoner who has spent over four months at both Scrubs and Pentonville prisons I am not at all surprised that inmates at Strangeways are telling their countrymen, "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to put up with this any more!"

It's widely known that 20,000 of 47,000 prisoners are using plastic buckets for sanitary purposes, that they are locked up many hours a day and that only one shower a week is provided. Conditions are so bad that suicides are common and get scant notice. On March 2 an inmate burned himself to death on my wing. It was briefly mentioned on a radio newscast but we didn't see it reported in any of the papers. It happens too often to be of interest to anyone other than his relatives.

The British should spend less time crucifying Iraq's criminal justice system and more time in putting their own house in order.

Yours etc.,
JOHN B. HUNTER,
HM Prison,
Pentonville,
Caledonian Road, NW1.
April 2.

From the President of the Liberal Democrats

Sir, I am disturbed by the extent to which we seem to be relying upon information given by a spokesman for the Prison Officers' Association on the current troubles in the prison service. Such information is laced with criticisms of staffing, pay and the introduction of the "Fresh Start" proposals.

Whilst appreciating the extreme difficulties at Strangeways, it is too much to ask for regular and authoritative statements about what is going on from a Home Office spokesman, both in London and Manchester?

Yours sincerely,
IAN WRIGGLESWORTH,
President,
Liberal Democrats,
4 Cowley Street, SW1.
April 4.

From Mr E. K. Timings

Sir, "The Lord Chief Justice then told the Deputy Marshall that though men are to be kept in prison according to law, and ought to be kept so that they may not escape, yet they ought not to turn their imprisonment into an execution."

The date? 1685. The author? Judge Jeffreys, he of the Bloody Assize.
Yours etc.,
E. K. TIMINGS,
Flat 4r,
Portman Mansions,
Chiltern Street, W1.
April 3.

for Methodist central halls. This was the essential preliminary required before State aid was made available for historic churches in use. Negotiations for that began in 1971 and the first grants were made in 1977 at the rate of one million pounds a year, at 1973 prices. Grants in 1988-89 totalled £7,113,000 for churches of all denominations in all parts of the country.

The sums required by cathedrals are likely to be much greater, even if their own resources and the ability to raise money are all greater. The Prime Minister in answer to a parliamentary question said that "we would not like the amount of money available to parish churches to be less because of the demands of cathedrals". Many in the churches would echo Mrs Thatcher's sentiment and, so far as the Church of England is concerned, it will undoubtedly want all its historic cathedrals and parish churches to be regarded as a unit within the totality of the nation's historic buildings, secular and ecclesiastical.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SAY,
23 Chequers Park,
Wye,
Ashford, Kent.
April 3.

Souvenirs in store

From Mrs Mary Cope
Sir, After mentioning Wellington boots and Gladstone bags your correspondent Philip Howard (March 30) wonders what Mrs Thatcher might be remembered for.

Before she was Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher got into trouble for declaring that, in order to beat inflation and shortages, she had a cupboard in which she stored items bought months in advance.

That was no help to the poor, the deprived, old age pensioners was the cry. Ever since then I have called my storeroom my Thatcher. Yours faithfully,
MARY COPE,
43 Rossmore Court,
Park Road, NW1.
April 4.

Hill Q and Chunuk Bair. By that time the New Zealanders had held the crest for 24 hours.

The significance of Chunuk Bair is such that the New Zealand Memorial was built there. On the highest and most tactically important ground seized during the campaign stands the memorial to the 2,721 New Zealanders who died on the Peninsula.

The Gurkhas, the Gloucesters and the Welch were certainly there, but the capture of Chunuk Bair was New Zealand's day.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FRY,
Director of Public Relations,
New Zealand Defence Force,
Wellington, New Zealand.

Wartime role of Leopold III

From Lord Keyes

Sir, With reference to Mr Peter Guilford's despatch from Brussels (April 5), King Leopold III of the Belgians did not "cling to his kingdom" while he was a prisoner of the Germans, between May, 1940, and May, 1945, but voluntarily gave up his powers when he became a captive. He had, in the words of Sir Basil Liddell Hart, "saved the British Army from destruction", by inspiring his gallant army to prolong its resistance against overwhelming odds for two days after the British had begun their evacuation from Dunkirk — without informing him or the French.

Leopold's principal ministers, who had fled to France three days before the surrender, followed Reynaud, the French Premier, in falsely accusing the King of desertion and treachery — in order to provide a scapegoat for the imminent collapse of France.

But when France fell the Belgian ministers tried unsuccessfully to persuade the King to support their desperate attempts to negotiate a peace settlement with the Nazis.

His Foreign Minister, Spaak, later confessed that the King had thereby saved them from becoming Quislings or Laval's and had persuaded them, five months later, to go to London, where they ceaselessly praised him throughout the war.

After the American Army had released Leopold and his family from Gestapo hands in Austria on May 7, 1945 (VE Day), they were held in custody by the Allies at the behest of the Marxist Prime Minister, Van Acker. Leopold was thereafter prevented for five years from returning to his kingdom by a conspiracy in which his jealous brother, Prince Charles, the Regent, Van Acker, Spaak and the Allied leaders all played their part.

The King did not return to Belgium in 1951, to be greeted by a referendum and a hostile reception, as Mr Guilford alleges. In fact he did so in 1950 to great acclaim after a consultation populaire in which a nearly three-fifths majority had demanded his return.

Spaak then led mobs of socialists and communists to the gates of the palace, in a riotous insurrection which forced Leopold to abdicate in favour of his son Baudouin in 1951.

Yours faithfully,
KEYES,
Emcroft, Charlton Lane,
West Farleigh, nr Maidstone,
Kent.
April 5.

Rate for the job?

From Mr David Watt
Sir, I presume that Mrs G. Hancock (April 2) is a teacher in full-time employment. If so, why should she receive any additional payment for assessment of A-level course-work, which seems to be part of her job?

Admittedly, the payment she received is minuscule, indeed derisory, but surely a true salaried professional — such as an accountant or solicitor — does not seek additional and separate payment for part of the job?

By nice calculations of payment per hour teachers do nothing to achieve recognition as the professionals they so undoubtedly are. To increase their salaries overall is a different point.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WATT,
69 Dartmouth Park Road, NW5

Sneak preview

From Mrs Jill Loveless

Sir, Mr Cotes's story about Wee George Wood recording his obituary (March 30) reminds me that my father, Fred Pritchard (the High Court judge), was an enthusiastic and excellent letter writer, whereas my mother never put pen to paper if she could avoid it.

Concerned lest those who wrote letters of condolence on his death should not have an acknowledgement, my father suggested that he should write to all those who he anticipated would write, and leave the letters with me to be posted after his death.

I pointed out that to receive a letter in his handwriting would be a severe shock to his (elderly) friends, and he was only dissuaded by my promise to attend to the matter personally.

Yours faithfully,
JILL LOVELESS,
Springfield House, Dyers Lane,
Slindon, Sussex.

From Mr Kenneth R. Whitton
Sir, May I remind you that in a previous incarnation you published on April 27, 1931, an obituary of the great and noble advocate Sir Edward Clarke, KC, written by himself.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH R. WHITTON,
2A Durweston Street, W1.

Moving times

From Mrs N. J. Charrington

Sir, At 2.45 p.m. yesterday two GCSE students and I were translating Aeneid IV, lines 166-8. In the aftermath of Aeneas and Dido's arrival at the cave, Prunaeval Earth and Juno gave signal of their union. Lightning flashed. Nymphs wailed... At 2.46 the classroom shook and rattled for some six seconds. Ours measured 5.2. Theirs, I should imagine, considerably more.

Yours faithfully,
CELIA CHARRINGTON,
High School for Girls, 43 Oak
Newport, Shropshire. 01676
April 3.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 6: The President of the Republic of India and Sri Lanka, Venkataratnam, with the Indian Suite in attendance, left Buckingham Palace this morning upon the conclusion of their State Visit to The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

His Excellency General D. S. Attygalle was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in London. Mr. D. M. Jayasekera (Minister, Economic and Commercial), Mr. P. Abeysereka (First Secretary, Education), Mr. K. L. Wijeratne (First Secretary, Administration), Mr. L. Amar (Second Secretary), Miss S. N. Ekanayake (Third Secretary), Mrs. C. Alagana (Third Secretary) and Mr. A. M. Pussepoda (Attache, Administration).

Mrs. Attygalle was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir Patrick Wright (Per-

manent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

His Excellency Señor Licenciado Francisco de Escoto and Señora de Escoto were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Nicaragua to the Court of St James's.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a concert to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain in aid of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by Lord Catto (Chairman, Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund) and Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding (Chief of the Air Staff).

The Lady Farnham, the Right Hon. Sir William Heslop, Rear-Admiral Lord Alton, and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF, were in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Lord Somerleyton (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon.

Latest wills

Lady Gammans, of Ipsing, West Sussex, Conservative MP for Horsey 1957-66, left estate valued at £1,052,743 net. She left her estate mostly to relatives.

Mr Arthur Henry Roberts, of East Wittering, West Sussex, cinema architect, left estate valued at £188,326 net.

Mr John William Dunn, of South Shields, Tyne and Wear, left estate valued at £146,498 net. He left £33,000 and effects to personal legacies, £1,000 each to the RNLI, British Rheumatism and Arthritis Association, RNIB and British Deaf Association, and the residue to the British Heart Foundation.

Mrs N.M.G. Black

A memorial service will be held for Mrs Margaret Black, Hon FROG, at St Bartholomew-the-Great, West Smithfield, EC1, on Friday, May 18, 1990, at 3.00 pm.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.T.C. Andrews and Miss L.J.E. Martin. The engagement is announced between Alexander, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. Andrews, of Beaumont End, Bucks, and Lisa, only daughter of Mr A. Martin, of the late Mrs M. Martin, of Surbiton, Surrey.

Mr A.M. Barry and Miss A.L. Pritchard. The engagement is announced between Alexander Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Barry, of Shilton, Oxfordshire, and Annette Theresa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Pritchard, of Brisbane, Australia.

Mr N.E. Braithwaite and Miss D.M. Boyd. The engagement is announced between Neil, youngest son of Mr Douglas Braithwaite, of Houghton, Northumberland, and the late Mrs Braithwaite, and Diana, youngest daughter of the late Mr John Boyd and of Mrs Boyd, of Bowden, Northumbria.

Mr T.M. Broadhead and Miss S.H. Connors. The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr John Broadhead and the late Mrs Brenda Broadhead, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Connors, of Chiswick, London.

Mr S.H.H. Brown and Miss A.M. McGarry. The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs Don Brown, of Pallister House, Winchester, Hants, to marry Anna, daughter of Mr Barry McGarry and Mrs Annette McGarry, both of Auckland, NZ.

Mr A.S. Cash, FR and Miss A.M. Driskill. The engagement is announced between Anton, elder son of Mr and Mrs Reginald Cash, of Staines, Middlesex, and Alexis, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Driskill, of Bolham, Devon.

Mr R.D. Gery and Mrs J.J. Stoten. The engagement is announced between Robert David, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert Gery, of Four Marks, Hampshire, and Alison Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Stoten, of Lutterworth, South Humberside.

Mr R.D. Gery and Mrs J.J. Stoten. The engagement is announced between Robert David, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert Gery, of Four Marks, Hampshire, and Alison Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Stoten, of Lutterworth, South Humberside.

Mr R.D. Gery and Mrs J.J. Stoten. The engagement is announced between Robert David, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert Gery, of Four Marks, Hampshire, and Alison Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Stoten, of Lutterworth, South Humberside.

Mr R.D. Gery and Mrs J.J. Stoten. The engagement is announced between Robert David, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert Gery, of Four Marks, Hampshire, and Alison Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Stoten, of Lutterworth, South Humberside.

Mr R.D. Gery and Mrs J.J. Stoten. The engagement is announced between Robert David, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert Gery, of Four Marks, Hampshire, and Alison Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Stoten, of Lutterworth, South Humberside.

Mr R.D. Gery and Mrs J.J. Stoten. The engagement is announced between Robert David, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert Gery, of Four Marks, Hampshire, and Alison Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Stoten, of Lutterworth, South Humberside.

Mr R.D. Gery and Mrs J.J. Stoten. The engagement is announced between Robert David, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert Gery, of Four Marks, Hampshire, and Alison Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Stoten, of Lutterworth, South Humberside.

Mr R.D. Gery and Mrs J.J. Stoten. The engagement is announced between Robert David, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert Gery, of Four Marks, Hampshire, and Alison Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Stoten, of Lutterworth, South Humberside.

noon upon the arrival of The President of the Republic of Colombia and Señora de Barco and welcomed them to the Exchequer on behalf of Her Majesty.

This morning The Princess Royal visited Ipswich and Sudbury and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Suffolk (Sir Joshua Rowley, Bt).

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, visited the Save the Children Fund shop, Carr Street, Ipswich. Afterwards, The Princess Royal opened the Little School at Ipswich School, Henley Road, Ipswich and visited Sudbury Upper School.

In the afternoon The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, attended a reception and luncheon at Sudbury Town Hall.

Her Royal Highness was attended by Mrs Charles Ritchie.

CLARENCE HOUSE April 6: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon opened the Assort Centre of the British Red Cross Society.

The Lady Elizabeth Basset was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE April 6: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, as Patron of Northern Ballet Theatre, was present this evening at a Gala Performance by the Company at the Theatre Royal, Bath.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Avon (Sir John Wells, Bt).

The Lady Elizabeth Cavendish was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE April 6: The Duke of Gloucester, Trustee, the British Museum, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, this evening was present at the opening of the Japanese Galleries by Prince Fumihito at the British Museum, Bloomsbury, London, WC1.

Mrs Euan MacQuarrie and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE April 6: The Duke of Kent, as President, today attended a Reception to mark the City Launch of "Reach for the Sky", the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund's 50th Anniversary Appeal, which was held at Guildhall, London EC2.

Captain the Hon Christopher Knollys was in attendance.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Dr David S. Ingram to be Regius Keeper, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, from April 1.

Professor Philip Garrett to succeed Mr Michael Lloyd as Bailiff of The Schools of King Edward the Sixth in Birmingham, on April 1. Professor Garrett holds the chair of Biological Sciences at Birmingham University.

Mr Charles Hogg, director of City of Voluntary Services Council, to be Chairman of the Transport Users Consultative Committee for Wales.

Marriage

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Mr R.E. Matur and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Matur, of Kensington, and Miss Diana, Estée de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

Reginald Alexander, an International Olympic Committee member, successful businessman and Kenyan politician, died aged 75 in Nairobi on April 1.

He was the last surviving white member of the International Olympic Committee from Africa, and was therefore a figure of some controversy in the Olympic movement during a period of intense anti-apartheid activity.

Throughout his 30 years of membership of the IOC, Alexander had been a staunch supporter of what he regarded as the traditional amateur principles of the Olympic Games, not to say Africa.

Yet in a changing world, in many senses, he found himself increasingly isolated. The vigour and conviction of his views were respected by many of those with whom he differed.

Born in Nairobi, Alexander regarded himself as much an African as any other Kenyan. He spoke Swahili, and indeed had been known to address an IOC Session in that tongue as proof of his identity with the black races, some of whom he had done possibly as much as anyone to help create the social and commercial fabric of Nairobi this century. He was Mayor of Nairobi in 1954.

He was a man of considerable courage. During the Kikuyu uprising, he never went to bed for over two years, sitting in an armchair with his back to the wall facing the front door through the night, suspecting that even his own domestic employees might be under orders to attack him and his family.

He was chairman of the Kenyan Olympic Committee from 1954-1968, and a member of the Commission for Olympic Aid, which preceded the Olympic Solidarity charity fund. He was also on the commission of inquiry into South Africa, during the IOC presidency of Avery Brundage, prior to South Africa's exclusion from the Olympic movement in 1970.

He was known to be sympathetic to South Africa's continuing membership, and for many years there had been unavailing pressure on him within Kenya to resign his IOC membership.

Although he respected the leadership in turbulent times of Señor Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC's president since 1980, he was constantly opposing the steady increase in professionalism and commercialism of the movement, with the newly accepted eligibility of full-time professionals from ice hockey, football, skiing and latterly athletics.

IOC sessions were incomplete without extensive questioning of the executive board's accounts by a man who believed himself to be the pillar of propriety.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.



55 and a prominent member prior to independence of KADU, the Kenya African Democratic Union.

He was a man of considerable courage. During the Kikuyu uprising, he never went to bed for over two years, sitting in an armchair with his back to the wall facing the front door through the night, suspecting that even his own domestic employees might be under orders to attack him and his family.

He was chairman of the Kenyan Olympic Committee from 1954-1968, and a member of the Commission for Olympic Aid, which preceded the Olympic Solidarity charity fund. He was also on the commission of inquiry into South Africa, during the IOC presidency of Avery Brundage, prior to South Africa's exclusion from the Olympic movement in 1970.

He was known to be sympathetic to South Africa's continuing membership, and for many years there had been unavailing pressure on him within Kenya to resign his IOC membership.

Although he respected the leadership in turbulent times of Señor Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC's president since 1980, he was constantly opposing the steady increase in professionalism and commercialism of the movement, with the newly accepted eligibility of full-time professionals from ice hockey, football, skiing and latterly athletics.

IOC sessions were incomplete without extensive questioning of the executive board's accounts by a man who believed himself to be the pillar of propriety.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

He was active in attempting to gain preferential travel rates for sportsmen with IATA, the airline body, and had hosted the conference in 1982 which led to the Nairobi Treaty for the protection of Olympic symbols: a disciple of everything for which de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, had stood for.

OBITUARIES

REGINALD ALEXANDER

AUSTIN GILL

Austin Gill, CBE, Professor of French at Glasgow University, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and Director of the British Institute in Paris, died at the age of 83 on March 21. He was born in Lancashire on September 3, 1906.

During his two spells at Magdalen, interrupted by his four years directorship of the British Institute in Paris, Austin Gill was one of the outstanding teachers in post-war Oxford. His intellectual stature was as commanding as his character and appearance, and his influence will be remembered by both his colleagues and pupils.

He was a Linguist and educated in Rugby and at Manchester University, where he was successively Research Fellow, Faulkner Fellow and Langton Fellow. He also studied at Grenoble and Paris, becoming a *Licencié en lettres* and writing a French doctorate thesis, which was never published. From 1933 to 1943, he lectured at Edinburgh University, and then made the first of several departures from the academic world, becoming British Council representative in French North Africa for a year and acting representative in France after the Liberation.

In 1945 he was elected to a Fellowship at Magdalen College, where he remained

SUNDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

Creating a stitch in time

Peter Waymark

Unlike many figures from the 1970s punk movement, Vivienne Westwood has not only survived, but remains as outrageous as ever. In Gillian Greenwood's instructive study for *The South Bank Show* (ITV, 10.35pm), Westwood declares: "I have an in-built clock which reacts against anything orthodox." And yet she draws her inspiration from such traditional societies as Edwardian England and ancient Greece and says that her favourite word in fashion is elegance. Her erstwhile partner Malcolm McLaren supplements an extensive interview with Westwood, while the dancer Michael Clark takes on the role of model. But it will be interesting to know who actually buys Westwood's clothes, which seem well beyond most pockets.

Pick of the week: *Washes* (BBC2, 8.05pm), another revealing dip into the history of the television commercial... *A Most Private Public Man* (BBC2, 6.45pm), a rare interview with Lord Goodman... and *The Nat King Cole Show* (Channel 4, 4.55pm), rediscovered recordings from the 1950s.

Vivienne Westwood: resplendent as outrageous as ever (ITV, 10.35pm)

RADIO CHOICE

Peter Davalle

A life of Chekhov by the same team (compiler Michael Bakewell, director Rosemary Hart) responsible for a previous life of Dickens. *Literature in My Mistress, Medicine My Wife* (Radio 4, 3.00pm), tackles Chekhov in the same way it tackled Dickens - no narrator, short quotes from sources not always readily identifiable but identifiably reliable, and quotes from the future shedding advance light on, well, in the present. In short, an *A to Z* of Chekhov, except that this alphabet does not obey the normal rules of biographical chronology... *Opera News* (Radio 3, 6.15pm) broadens ground for radio magazines, and I wish it well. If James Naughton can anchor it as confidently as he did the recent *Pillars of Society* profile of the Royal Opera House, I don't see how it can possibly fail.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW News on the half-hour from 5.30am until 12.30pm, then at 2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30pm. 5.00am Gary King 7.00 The Bruno and Jan Breakfast Show 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 12.30pm Pick of the Pops with Alan Freeman 3.00 Pop of the Form School pop quiz hosted by Mike Read 3.30 Phil Schofield 5.00 Top 40 with Bruno Brookes 7.00 The Anne Nightingale Request Show 9.00 Andy Kershaw 11.00-12.00am Bob Harris Sunday

RADIO 2

FM Stereo and MW. 6.00am News 6.00 Graham Knight 7.00 Good Morning Sunday 8.00 Moulders For You 1.00 Your Radio 2 All-Time Greatest 1.15-1.45am Liverpool v Crystal Palace (MW only) 2.00 Benny Green 3.00 Sounds Easy 2.30-4.00am Cheltenham (MW only) 4.00-4.30am Something Simple 5.00am Cheltenham 7.00 Sunday Serenade 7.30 Operetta Nights 8.00am Sunday Half-Hour 9.00 Your Hundred Best Tunes 10.00am The Arts Programme 12.05am Scavents of the Fifties 1.00-4.00am Nightlife

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather and News 7.00 Handel (Brookes Passion, closing sequence: Solistes; Stachnegor; Hale; Cecilia Severin under McGegan; Concerto grosso, Op 6 No 8; Eggert Concert under Trevor Finner 7.30 News 7.35a Mosekewitz, Mendelssohn, arr Rachmaninov (Schoz); Beethoven (Andante favori, WoO 57); Rachmaninov (Prelude No 23 in G sharp minor; piano Concerto No 2; London Philharmonic Orchestra under Goehr) 8.30 News 8.35 Your Concert Choice: Fritz (Dietrich; English; CD under Christopher Finzi, with Wilfred Brown, tenor; Rotherham (Andante; Northern Sinfonia under Hickox, with Alan Pearson, piano); Dussek (Chansons; Roudot & la Turque; Jan. Panenka, tenor); C.F.E. Bach (Concerto in G; J.F. Pailard Chamber Orchestra under Pailard, with Marie-Claire Alain, organ); Pergolesi (Stabat Mater; Solistes; Societa Cameristica di Lugano under Lothar) 10.30am Music Weekly with Michael Oliver. Polishing Up the image: the marketing of young musicians is examined by Hugh Canning; East Meets West: a conversation with star player Ravi Shankar; Teaching Folk Music: a visit to the Old Bull Academy in Norway 11.15 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra under Yvonne Orlik, with John Lill, piano, performs Mozart (Overture, K 543); Tchaikovsky (Fantasy Overture, Romeo and Juliet, and 11.55 Interval Reading 12.50pm Opera and Piano: Michael Collins and Nikita Ogilvy perform Schumann (Fantasy Pieces, Op 73; Liszt (Dance; Schumann (Sonata in F minor, Op 12 No 1) 1.50 String Quartets: Musikkvart Kuchl Quartet performs Haydn (Quartet in A, Op 65 No 1); Ivan Erdi (Quartet No 2) 2.30 Towards Bach (FM only from 3.00): Cantata; La Sinfonia Sinfonia; Leonhardt, with Greta De Reyghere, soprano, Guillelmo Lavagna, mezzo, Michael Chance,

RADIO 4

counter-tenor, John Elwes, tenor, Max van Egmond, bass, perform Bach (Mass in B minor), his own summing-up of his life and music. The final concert in the series 3.00-4.00pm West Match Special (MW only): West Indies v England. Commentary on the fourth Test; from Bridgetown (Antony Brown, 4.00pm) 4.00-4.30pm Poet of the Month (FM only): Kit Wright reads "The Day Room" and "Short Stories" 4.35pm Celebrity Recital (FM only): Daniel Barenboim, piano, performs Mozart (Fantasy and Sonata in G minor, K 475 and 457); Beethoven (33 Variations on a Waltz by Diabelli, Op 12), and 5.10 Interval Reading 6.15am Opera News (new series) (FM only): James Naughton guides us through the world of International Opera, including, this month, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Mark Elder, Felicity Lott, John Cox and Pierre Auxil (see Choice) 7.00 Die neugierigen Frauen (The Inquisitive Women) (FM only): Bavarian State Orchestra under Alexander Sander, with Alfred Kuhn, bass, as Otavio; Robert Gamball, tenor, as Florindo; Jan Vach, tenor, as Leandro; Hans-Gunter Nocker, bass, as Pantalone; Wolfgang Rauch; baritone, as Lelio; Daphne Evangelista, mezzo-soprano, as Beatrice; Otavio's wife; Sabine Pászora, soprano, as Rosaura, their daughter; Julie Faudry, soprano, as Eleonora; Lelio's wife; Christian Bonach; baritone, as Artichino; Julie Kaufmann, soprano, as Columba; perform Verdi's three-act comic opera of 1903, after Goldoni's 1733 play. From last year's Munich Opera Festival 9.20 Stockhausen and Bartok (FM only): BBC SO under Peter Eotvos performs Stockhausen (Sikely; Bartok (Piano Concerto No 3) 10.05 Third Ear (FM only) with Robert Hewison 10.30 No Greater Love: A meditation on Jesus's journey towards Calvary and its meaning for us 11.30 Middle Fiddler: Emmanuel Vardi, viola, introduces and plays with: Grainger (Dance; Debussy, Faure and Françoise Schmitt, with Kurtur Schmitt, piano 12.00 News 12.55am Close

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. Add an hour for BST. 5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News 11.30-12.00am News 12.00-12.30am News 12.30-1.00am News 1.00-1.30am News 1.30-2.00am News 2.00-2.30am News 2.30-3.00am News 3.00-3.30am News 3.30-4.00am News 4.00-4.30am News 4.30-5.00am News 5.00-5.30am News 5.30-6.00am News 6.00-6.30am News 6.30-7.00am News 7.00-7.30am News 7.30-8.00am News 8.00-8.30am News 8.30-9.00am News 9.00-9.30am News 9.30-10.00am News 10.00-10.30am News 10.30-11.00am News 11.00-11.30am News

Move to wind up Bond company

From David Tweed
Sydney

MR KERRY Packer's Consolidated Press Holdings has applied to have the media arm of Mr Alan Bond's rapidly-dwindling empire wound up.

Mr Tom Hughes QC, for CPH, alleged in the Supreme Court of Western Australia that directors of Bond Media Limited (BOM) organized the accounts to disguise Aus\$126 million (£58.6 million) which could have been used to pay off part of an Aus\$200 million debt to Mr Packer.

Included in the allegations was a claim that BOM made a Aus\$551 million loan to one of its subsidiaries as part of a complex transaction to cover up its profits.

Mr Hughes claimed that, as a preference shareholder, CPH was denied access to Aus\$51 million in interest on the loan as well as substantial management fees.

It was alleged the transaction was engineered to delay Mr Packer's move to redeem his stake in the company — a delay which was costing him Aus\$90,000 a day.

He said: "We say the account of the company (BOM) and its various subsidiaries have been so arranged as to appear to eliminate profit."

Mr Hughes said it was alleged that 13 per cent interest was charged on the loan to the end of the financial year (June 30, 1989) but no interest was charged after that date.

The court was told that if interest had been charged after June, Mr Packer would have been entitled to a total of Aus\$121 million if the payments were projected to last month.

The court heard that the Aus\$200 million in BOM preference shares could only be redeemed if the company recorded a profit or if there was a fresh issue of shares.

Mr Hughes said the allegations formed the core of the argument that BOM be wound up or that the Aus\$200 million in preference shares held by CPH should be redeemed.

Agreeing that the matter was urgent, Master White set a hearing date for May 2 — an unusually early date for a winding-up application.

New-look Laird Group lifts profits to £43.7m

By Colin Campbell

LAIRD Group, which sold the rump of its Metro-Cammell Weymann train-making interests last year and now concentrates on car body seals, reports strong profits growth in 1989.

It says its balance sheet is particularly fit for the 1990s. By the end of the 1980s, substantially all Laird's original mechanical engineering businesses had been sold.

It says new businesses started in Britain to provide products and services for the computer and building industries have the potential to become substantial profits centres in the 1990s.

Pre-tax profits rose from £21.3 million to £43.7 million — although adjustment for disposals shows the advance to have been made from a 1988 pre-tax profits base of £36.7 million — on a turnover in the year ended December of £487.3 million (£553.8 million).

Mr John Gardiner, chairman and chief executive, says the final dividend is being raised from 5.2p to 5.8p — as forecast at the time of the August one-for-five rights issue at 22.5p which raised £35.2 million. This makes a year's total 9.7p (8.7p). Laird shares rose 6p to 244p. The 1989 pre-tax profit includes the benefit of £1.8 million from favourable exchange rates.

Mr Gardiner says the busi-

nesses that will take Laird into the 1990s operate mainly overseas and are largely involved with the manufacture and distribution of synthetic rubber and plastics.

Less than 20 per cent of profits were generated from Britain in 1989. Eighty per cent came from West Germany, France and the US.

The net effect of disposals was a £14.6 million extraordinary credit accounted for below the pre-tax profits line, compared with a £14.5 million extraordinary item in 1988. Net earnings were 30.3p a share compared with 10.4p.

The sealing systems division showed only a "slow improvement" because of costs of bringing a new Spanish plant on stream. Within industrial products, there was a good performance by rubber and plastic automotive component businesses in France, while in Britain aerospace components and mining conveyor companies both reported improved profits.

The benefit of the rights issue, favourable exchange rates and cash proceeds from disposals has improved the balance sheet. Shareholders' funds at the year end were £147.4 million (£80.8 million), while despite the high level of capital investment during 1989 net borrowings had fallen from £37.4 million to £20 million.



Hitting the dividend target: John Gardiner of Laird

Pay round in Japan 'a spur to spending'

From A Correspondent

WAGE increases following Japan's annual pay negotiations are unlikely to rekindle inflation but should spur consumer spending, according to economists.

The Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), with 8 million affiliated members, has so far won rises for the year from April 1 averaging 5.95 per cent, up from a final 5.1 per cent in 1989-90.

"Such a figure, or even a bit more than 6 per cent, is unlikely to cause inflation and will only boost private spending," said Mr Yukihiko Shimada, economist at Wako Research Institute of Economics.

Wage talks with most major unions are over and remaining discussions are expected to be completed by early May.

The increases won so far will benefit wage earners more than last year, when a 3 per cent consumption tax was introduced from April 1.

"Consumer spending is expected to grow faster this fiscal year than the previous year, but the rise in consumer prices is likely to be narrowed," said Mr Toshiaki Kakimoto, chief economist at Sumitomo Bank.

The Bank of Japan is worried about inflationary pressure from the tight labour market and is watching the wage talks with interest, central bank officials said.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dawsonsgroup figures slump to £2.7m

PRE-TAX profits at Dawsonsgroup, the truck dealer and rental company, slumped to £2.7 million in the year to the end of December after £6.05 million last time. The company had given warning at the interim stage that difficult conditions in the truck rental market would result in substantially lower profits for the full year and a jump in interest costs. Operating profits slipped from £9.07 million to £2.89 million, on turnover up 12.6 per cent to £51.2 million. Interest payments more than doubled, from £3.02 million to £6.19 million. Earnings per share fell from 14.3p to 7.2p. There is a final dividend of 1.6p (nil), making an improved total of 3.2p (2.4p) for the year.

Bourne End profits surge

BOURNE End Properties reported a jump in pre-tax profits to £994,000 in 1989, against £432,000. Earnings per share rose from 3.5p to 8.9p. The final dividend is 2p (1.6p), making 3p (2.35p). Property sales were £10.8 million. There were no sales in 1988. Net tangible assets reached £20 million, or £2.35 per share, up 199 per cent.

Tussauds plan for Alton

TUSSAUDS Group, a subsidiary of Pearson, yesterday formally completed the acquisition of Alton Towers, the Midlands theme park, for £60 million in cash and the assumption of £35 million of debt. Mr Michael Herbert, chairman of Tussauds, said: "We have already identified the possible site for a new ride of international class."

Turriff buys Staffwise

TURRIFF, the Warwick construction, plant hire, personnel and marketing services group, has acquired Staffwise Employment Agency for a maximum of £2.15 million.

Turriff is buying out the interests of the sole owners, Mr TR Wiseman and Mr RJ Harris and their wives, for £1.6 million in cash and about £100,000 in an allotment of 35,088 new Turriff ordinary shares. A maximum of £450,000 will be paid if performance targets are met. For the year ended October 1989 Staffwise had audited pre-tax profits of £252,000 and net assets of £151,000.

Profits slip at Beradin

PRE-TAX profits at Beradin, the plantation and investment company, fell from £499,939 to £402,432 in the year ending December 31. Earnings per share slipped from 1.86p to 1.74p. The final dividend is 1p (1.15p). Turnover declined from £965,524 to £738,692. The company blamed a fall in commodity prices.

Aid mission for Poland

JAPAN'S Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will send an economic mission to Poland and Hungary from April 9-20 to study how Japan can help them to revitalize their economies. The mission, comprising MITI officials, bankers and corporate executives, will meet government officials and businessmen.

Sale delay hits result

AUDIT & General, the property and industrial group, has blamed a delay in a £500,000 property sale from the first half into the second half for a fall in interim pre-tax profits from £712,000 to £207,000. Turnover rose from £3.76 million to £5.79 million in the six months to end-December.

Earnings per share fell from 1.57p to 0.41p and the interim dividend, the first since 1985, is 0.3p. Pre-tax profits in the industrial division rose from £8,170 to £392,000 while there were losses in the property division of £151,000 (£795,000) and £33,700 (£975 loss) in the mining division.

GFW has indirect interest in Harlin

From A Correspondent

GOODMAN Fielder Wattle, the failed bidder for Ranks Hovis McDougall, has revealed it bought an indirect interest in Harlin Holdings, the private company controlled by Elders DCL executives which has 55 per cent of Elders.

Goodman Fielder said in response to a query from the Australian Stock Exchange that in August 1988 it took a 22.9 per cent stake in Barmis Finance Co, which holds 70 million subordinated participating notes in Harlin.

The Barmis stake cost Aus\$60 million (£28 million);

Goodman Fielder said, and is still in its books at that price. Goodman decided to sell it last year but it has not yet been sold. Goodman said it made the statement in response to the query and recent "misconceived" reports. Several reports speculated that Goodman Fielder had taken a stake worth Aus\$60 million in Harlin.

Analysts say Harlin faces mounting problems as the Elders share price falls. The shares closed at a two-year low of Aus\$2.02 yesterday. Brokers estimate Harlin's debts at about Aus\$3.3 billion.

Warren to leave Rex Williams

MR FRANK Warren, the boxing promoter, is resigning from the board of Rex Williams Leisure. An announcement to the Stock Exchange stated that Mr Warren had been unable to play a role in the affairs of the company since his shooting in November.

Mr John Botros will continue as acting chairman, with Mr Jeff Williams as chief executive. This week, Mr Williams said the company had received a takeover approach from an unidentified source after asking for shares to be suspended. Before suspension they were 10p.

Software firms win MoD study deals

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

TWO British consortia have been awarded contracts by the Ministry of Defence to develop Europe-wide computer software standards under a new Portable Common Tool Environment programme.

A group comprising STC, GEC-Marconi and led by SD-Scicon, a software engineering company based at Camberley, Surrey, has secured one of the feasibility studies.

Another has been awarded to a group led by Logica, a Cambridge computer company.

The groups are being paid £500,000 to conduct the stud-

ies. Of the two consortia, only one will win a multi-million contract to help implement software harmonization throughout the Independent European Programme Group (IEPG), which includes Nato countries.

Mr Elwyn Wareham of SD-Scicon said software standards were being seen as increasingly important if Europe was to compete with the Far East and American industry.

The British consortia will be studying ways of harmonizing software design and engineering standards on Digital VAX computers.

Intelligent,
high performance
executive
with a mind of his own.



intelligent,
high performance
executive
with a mind of its own.

The Maxima is the executive saloon for the discerning individual.

An elegantly styled, aerodynamic thoroughbred, whose sophisticated network of computers provides it with a mind of its own, constantly monitoring engine and transmission performance.

Put your foot down and the 3 litre, fuel injected V6 engine surges you to an exhilarating top speed of 132mph.

To control this impressive power, the Maxima offers electronic 4-speed automatic transmission, with overdrive and switchable power/comfort mode.

Handling is crisp and responsive, with variable ratio power assisted steering and ABS, operating on discs all round, for complete control.

The Maxima SE comes equipped with a wealth of luxury and labour saving features, but, unlike other manufacturers, such as BMW and Mercedes,

Nissan provide them all at no extra cost.

Like remote control, alarm activating central locking, air conditioning, cruise control, electric windows and door mirrors, electrically heated and adjusted front seats and stereo radio/cassette.

And leather upholstery and a CD player in

the SEi, all add to a unique driving experience.

The Maxima is a unique combination of design, innovation, technology and engineering excellence. When it comes to producing an executive car that stands out from the crowd — Nissan know how.



NISSAN UK LIMITED, WATFORD, Herts.

Fiat and Ford seek global deals

From A Correspondent

TALKS between Fiat, the Italian motor manufacturer, and Ford could lead to global accords on tractors, agriculture and heavy industrial vehicles.

The two companies have decided not to release further details until the talks are over and firm agreements have been reached. But, said Fiat, their respective product and market identities would be preserved.

The talks "could lead to accords, at the international level, regarding the tractor and agricultural machinery sectors," it said. "Fiat and Ford also are involved in

other talks to seek possible areas of co-operation in the sector of heavy industry vehicles."

Fiat and Ford held talks five years ago about a major link-up in the car sector, but the lengthy negotiations broke down after disagreement over who would control the venture.

They later submitted rival bids for Alfa Romeo, the Italian sports car manufacturer, with Fiat's offer ultimately accepted by the Italian government in October 1986.

Fiat also revealed it is holding

preliminary talks with Iran about a vehicle production agreement.

Fiat shares were actively traded, adding 60 lire at the close to L10,300 (£5.05) and then climbing to L10,345 shortly after the company's announcement of the Ford talks.

There has been speculation for several months that Fiat was considering an equity and industrial link-up with another car producer, such as France's Peugeot or Japan's Mitsubishi Motors.

But Fiat has denied there are negotiations with any of these groups.

Barclays may become a jewel in the Reichmann crown

In the drama of London property the spotlight has moved to centre stage and the bearded, skull-cracked figure of Paul Reichmann.

It will remain there until the play is finished, for Reichmann is now the most powerful figure in property. He bestrides London like a colossus.

Property development within and on the periphery of the City is governed by a triumvirate. Reichmann is Caesar Augustus and Godfrey Bradman (Rosehaugh) and Stuart Lipton (Stanhope Properties) alternate in the roles of Lepidus and Pompey. They are redrawing the property map of London in a way that kings, even passionate princes, cannot do. Bradman and Lipton are responsible for the massive Broadgate development adjoining Liverpool Street station and for the vast King's Cross scheme. But Reichmann owns a third of Stanhope, bought for £137 million in May 1988, and 8.25 per cent of a weakened Rosehaugh, acquired (or revealed) this week for £29 million. Reichmann also has Canary Wharf and a vision of turning this area of London's Docklands into a city within a city.

Ten million square feet of new office space on 20 separate building sites will turn the Isle of Dogs into something like another downtown Manhattan. Ten million square feet is equivalent to about 14 per cent of total office space in the City of London. To do it requires not only skill, money and patience but the power to defy the historical tide of urban development which flows not toward the east but toward the west.

Olympia & York is the private, family-owned Canadian company through which the immensely rich Paul Reichmann and two brothers operate. The original Canary Wharf scheme was tottering when O & Y took it over from the colourful, larger-than-life G Ware ("B Ware") Travelstead in 1987. Along the way the brothers have acquired interests in other, nearby sites and ventures. Lipton, for his part, has his own Dockland development eyes on the old Royal Docks.

The Reichmanns' Canary Wharf scheme is of the order of £4 billion. They are looking to completion of the first half of Canary Wharf some time next year. "Looking to" is the wrong phrase: "determined to ensure" is more accurate in the light of their abrupt dismissal last week of Ellis Don McAlpine, project manager on the 800 ft office tower, which was unable to prevent "frustrating delays".

The major gap in O & Y's calculations at present is the vast amount of space which important, space-eating companies, despite heavy blandishments and tempting inducements, have declined to take. Two have signed up,



KENNETH FLEET

Merrill Lynch and Texaco, both American, both clients of O & Y in North America. Paul Reichmann appears sanguine. His is the long view, which a financially powerful and confident private company can afford to take.

And he may be about to pull off a great coup that would bring Canary Wharf into life and shake the property world to its core.

I hear a whisper in the caves that Barclays has begun to think seriously about the advantages of being a Reichmann tenant. It would involve moving a mass of staff and vacating acres of offices in the City, a daunting prospect but the stakes are high and one which I have no doubt could be made financially attractive to the bank.

In the first place, operating in one location should improve efficiency, reduce costs and help the profit and loss account. In the second place, surplus on sales of property assets in the City would be added to reserves and strengthen the base of Barclays' balance sheet. In the third place, the bank through O & Y might receive hefty tax benefits as the Canary Wharf development is in an enterprise zone.

The impact of such a deal on Canary Wharf would be overwhelmingly positive. Canary Wharf in the hands of any developers other than the Reichmanns would have been dismissed as too chancy to touch. If, or when, they can induce a major British tenant to move to the Isle of Dogs — and Barclays as a leading player in the financial services industry would be ideal — then others would assuredly follow, despite the miseries of working on a building site with woefully inadequate transport services, surrounded by hostile natives.

The consequences for the London commercial property market would vary. At the end of last year Jones Lang Wootton produced figures showing that the office space in central London and in Docklands totalled 155 million sq ft: 23 million sq ft was under construction; and another 53 million sq ft was planned or proposed.

More to the point in the Canary Wharf context, 45 per cent of space in central London was built before the 1939-45 war, 31 per cent between the end of the war and 1979, and only 24 per cent since 1979.

Thus up to two-thirds of London

office space might be obsolete, with facilities for the fast-growing service industries notably below modern requirements. Widespread obsolescence is mirrored in the widening disparity in rents between new and old buildings. A move from the City to Canary Wharf by a substantial group would depress rents for outdated premises and offer exciting opportunities for refurbishment and redevelopment on some prime sites. The property market as a whole would be given a lift and the Reichmanns would be on their way to a remarkable double.

A Jewish family whose members after travels in Hungary, Austria, France and Spain found their way to Toronto in 1934 and did their first substantial Canadian property development in 1975.

They bought their first New York properties in 1976. They completed the World Financial Centre there in 1986. O & Y is now the biggest landlord in Manhattan — a feat the brothers seem destined to repeat in London commercial property, more or less by the same means but in an even shorter time.

Their stakes in Stanhope and Rosehaugh extend their influence over a wide area of an industry in which they have become the most powerful player in three years. They have "no present intention" of bidding for Rosehaugh, which because of its liquidity problem is there for the taking, but their shareholding has stiffened the Rosehaugh price.

It is a coincidence but an interesting one that the only significant takeover bids in the market at present are both for property companies. One is an agreed bid of £409 million from the Scandinavian insurance group, SPP, for London & Edinburgh Trust, the company built up by the brothers John and Peter Beckwith. The other is the joint Chelsfield-P & O offer (through Pall Mall Properties) for Laing Properties.

The raised, and final, bid of 725p a share cash for Laing is not certain of winning the day. Standard Life, a knowledgeable property shareholder, took it without hesitation, and if the 23 Laing family and charitable trusts remained solidly opposed their 43 per cent alone is not enough to keep Pall Mall out.

On the other hand, I wonder whether Sir Jeffrey Sterling and Elliott Bernard have it in mind, having made a tight-lipped offer, to retire from the field with a substantial holding (35-40 per cent) and use that as a launching pad for a second offensive in due time. If so the Laing share price should not fall far if Brian Chilver, the chairman, and his phalanx of faithful trusts succeed in holding the line.

Betacom gives warning after profits slump

By Our City Staff

BETACOM, the telephone distributor, yesterday warned it will fall into a first-half loss after reporting a drop in 1989 pre-tax profits from £2.61 million to just £278,000.

Mr Dennis Baylin, chairman and chief executive, told investors last month to expect a significant drop in 1989 profits.

He blamed the poor results on the slowdown in the high street, the disastrous launch of a low-price facsimile machine and delays in receiving telecommunications licences for various joint ventures in Europe.

"It's really a combination of a number of factors; added to everything else we didn't really develop new products with the same aggression we had in the past. Let's just say it never rains, it pours," said Mr Baylin, who expects to "substantially improve" results by 1991.

Betacom, which plans to "re-launch" itself with a new logo and new products next month, said it is giving up on the fax machine market altogether following the failure of its traditional retail outlets, including Dixons, Currys and Comet, to sell the product.

The company was left with large stocks it was unable to sell, resulting in an exceptional writedown of £500,000 for the year.

Mr Baylin said the stock level is now worth £1 million, and that it is having "no



Planning a May re-launch: Dennis Baylin, chairman

Guinness trial told that Ronson could over-trust

By A Correspondent

A court decision by Mr Justice Harman, the millionaire businessman, to support Guinness in its campaign to win Distillers brought him into the legal share-support scandal, a court has been told.

Mr Ronson, the head of the Guinness corporation, who invested £25 million in Guinness shares in return for a 25 per cent stake in the company, was described as a "Southwest County Court as over-trusting."

Mr Alan Goldman, now deputy chief executive of Heron, but joint finance director at the time, said the first he knew of Heron's involvement was when Mr Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, told him that Mr Ronson had agreed to make the Guinness investment. Mr Goldman admitted that after a Government probe was launched into the 1986 record £2.7 billion bid for Distillers, Mr Ronson was under the last not been given warning about the implications of the move.

Mr Timothy Cassel, QC, defending Mr Ronson, said the court now knew of the

transaction. Harman "entered into" virtually instantaneous agreement with the "other" without giving the consideration it perhaps deserved."

The court heard how Mr Ronson left school aged 15 without academic or professional qualifications, and went on to build up the £1.8 billion Heron empire. Mr Ronson holds a 15 per cent stake in the group, one of Britain's largest private corporations.

Mr Goldman said Mr Ronson was a good delegate, and if he trusted employees, he allowed them to get on with

their job, but always wanted to be kept informed. Mr Goldman added that Mr Ronson sometimes tended to over-trust those whose reputation he respected.

He also said that after the Guinness shares were sold through a nominees company, Guinness was invoiced for £2.5 million by Heron Management and for £3.3 million by PIMA, its US subsidiary.

He said it was decided to put the PIMA payment into the loans and savings to bring up profit forecasts, adding that Mr Ronson had later told the Heron board that the money was a "gift".

Mr Ernest Saunders, aged 54, the former Guinness chief, Mr Ronson, aged 50, Mr Parnes, aged 44, and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier, variously deny 24 charges including theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act. The trial continues on Monday.



Ronson says decision

WSP buys engineers for £3.6m

By Our City Staff

WSP Holdings, the consulting engineer, which now derives 10 per cent of its profits from the upgrading and refurbishment of old Victorian prisons, is acquiring two other building service engineers.

The company, which is moving up from the Unlisted Securities Market to the full list on May 10, is paying an initial £1.86 million to acquire both Donald Rudd, a Watford, Hertfordshire, industrial and public sector consultant, and 71.5 per cent of Parsons Brown, a commercial consultant operating in Bristol, London and Reading.

WSP, which has an option to acquire the remaining 28.5

per cent of Parsons Brown from its management in 1991, is to pay up to £1.81 million more for both businesses in a deferred consideration upon exercising its options.

It is funding the deal via the issue of 2.82 million ordinary shares at 97½p of which about 743,000 will be the initial share element and 2.07 million will be used to raise £1.62 million net of expenses. Of this, £1.102 million will be the cash element and the rest will provide working capital.

"The acquisitions represent a major advance in the development of WSP's core consulting engineering business. Both companies are

long-established and well-respected," said Mr Chris Cole, the managing director. "The nature of the services provided by Parsons Brown and Donald Rudd, as well as the geographical location of their operations, are highly complementary to WSP's existing businesses."

Donald Rudd, which made pre-tax profits of £79,705 in the year to end-January, provides design services for mechanical, electrical, public health and fire engineering systems for industrial and public sector clients. Parsons Brown, which reported pre-tax profits of £172,575 for the year to end-August, 1989, has

mostly commercial clients and concentrates on the South-west.

WSP, which said it is benefiting from Government plans to spend more money upgrading both motorways and prisons, yesterday reported a 49.3 per cent rise in 1989 pre-tax profits to £966,000. Turnover was up 51.3 per cent to £5.17 million, while earnings per share climbed 30.3 per cent from 6.6p to 8.8p.

A final dividend of 1.5p (1.3p) makes a total for the year of 2.4p (2.1p).

Mr Cole hopes WSP will win the contract to upgrade Strangeways after the riot.

LEP to buy all Profit Systems

LEP Group, the freight company, is to acquire the outstanding 48 per cent of Profit Systems, the US company, which does not already own the 52 per cent it already owns.

The agreement provides for the merger of an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of LEP with Profit Systems.

Under the revised deal, announced in January, Profit Systems' shareholders will receive \$11.75 for each share.

GA shares split

Existing General Accident shareholders will receive two shares in General Accident Plc, a new company for every ordinary share held in the existing group. Convertible loan noteholders will receive one share in the new company for every ordinary share which would have been issued. Preference shares will be repaid.

Breedon ahead

Breedon, the quarry and builder, made £42.7 million (£36 million) pre-tax profits on a turnover of £16.36 million (£16.63 million) in the year to end-January. Earnings are 9.66p (8.33p) and the final dividend is 2.75p (2.5p), making 4.25p (3.75p).

Deal allowed

Compagnie Générale des Eaux's acquisition of a majority stake in AMI Healthcare is not to be referred to the Monopolies Commission. AMI shares, subject to a bid for the minority, were unchanged at 368p.

Jacks slides

Pre-tax profits for the year to end-January fell from £1.03 million to £571,000 at William Jacks, the Berkshire car trader. Earnings are 2.09p (5.93p). The final dividend is 1.1p making 2p (2.2p).

New Camford payout

CAMFORD, Engineering, which is fighting a hostile £64 million bid from Markheath Securities, will, as part of its defence, pay shareholders "new annual property dividends totalling 15p net a share" for at least the next three years.

The new dividends will be on top of those declared out of engineering profits.

Camford also announced a revised property valuation,

Elys' profits in advance

By Our City Staff

ELYS of Wimbledon, the department store business, saw pre-tax profits rise from £805,000 to £867,000 on sales of £11.7 million up from £11.1 million.

Earnings per share rose from 43.6p to 46.9p and the final dividend is 13.5p making 14.5p for the year up from 13.5p. The shares were unchanged at 975p.

How the language of capitalism baffled Hungarians

Confusion as East meets West

By Colin Narborough

HALF of a state-owned Hungarian hotel chain, HungarHotels, was sold to a Swedish buyer at a bargain price because Budapest officials and their Western accountants did not know they were speaking different languages.

A valuation of the hotel group's assets, commissioned by two government departments from Ernst & Young, the British business services and accountancy group, was misunderstood as the proper price at which to sell the firm.

Quintus, a Swedish hotel group, clinched the HungarHotels joint venture deal last December, taking a 50 per cent stake for £35 million, half the £110 million figure Ernst & Young's Hungarian auditing firm had set for the chain's

net asset value. The valuation had deliberately not taken account such familiar market concepts as goodwill and business potential, which can be worth two to three times the value of the assets.

The deal was criticised in the Hungarian media, and it was suggested the Swedes planned a quick sell-on.

The outcry prompted the government, which has otherwise strongly favoured privatization, into legal action that has now reversed the sale of the 100-hotel chain. The Swedes, instead of pocketing a bargain, are merely receiving their money back.

A spokesman for Ernst & Young in London said its Hungarian firm, Ernst & Young Bonitas, had made the asset valuation for the finance and commerce ministries in Budapest without under-

standing the purpose. The valuation, which gave a gross figure of £180 million, sought only to estimate the replacement cost to meet the requirements of Hungary's asset-transformation legislation.

"But the Hungarian officials appear to have thought that they had been given a price at which it could be sold off," the spokesman said.

The Ernst & Young team was separately hired to conduct a business valuation that showed earnings were unimpressive, reflecting the poor location of some hotels, low occupancy levels and high inflation.

And what happens now? The government plans to re-nationalize the company with the intention of floating half of it on the stock market.

Waterford chief resigns

By Melinda Wittstock

WATERFORD Wedgwood, the strike-torn and loss-making Irish crystal and china group, sustained another blow yesterday with the resignation of Mr Jim Collieran, the group's US chief executive.

The company said Mr Collieran's departure was unconnected with Mr Tony O'Reilly's plans to improve Waterford Wedgwood's lagging US fortunes with a major marketing initiative. With Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank, Mr O'Reilly, the Irish-born chairman of HJ Heinz, is injecting £102 million (£98 million) into the debt-ridden company in return for a 29.9 per cent stake.

A company spokesman said: "Mr Collieran has been planning to leave for some time. His departure has nothing to do with recent developments. The parting is completely amicable." He would not say whether Mr Collieran is receiving compensation.

Waterford said Mr Collieran had left the company to pursue other career interests. Mr Collieran is also to resign from the main board. He joined the company in 1983.

Mr Redmond O'Donoghue, Waterford's director of overseas sales, is taking responsibility for the US operations until a replacement is found.

The resignation comes as Waterford Crystal's 2,300 Irish workers began the second day of an all-out strike over management cost-cutting measures. Mr Paddy Galvin, chief executive of Waterford Crystal, has threatened to transfer crystal production to Czechoslovakia or East Germany if workers do not co-operate to reduce costs.

Four ways to cut your mortgage payments all under one roof.

The Mortgage Corporation has introduced a range of four cost-cutting mortgages.

We can help you choose from a low-start option which reduces monthly payments by up to £250, to a stable payment option which protects you from fluctuating mortgage rates. There's even a combination of both.

For further details, send in the coupon or call 0800 800 456 and talk to one of our personal mortgage consultants now.

The choice could open a lot of new doors.

0800 800 456

Name	HeadStart Range
Address	
Postal Town	County
Postcode	Tel No (Optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> Remortgage <input type="checkbox"/> Buying a House <input type="checkbox"/> First Time Buyer <input type="checkbox"/>	

The Mortgage Corporation
Send to: The Mortgage Corporation, FREEPOST, Woking, Surrey GU21 5BR
or consult your financial adviser.

Example: Loan £50,000. Term 25 years: APR 12.1% (variable) including estimated legal and valuation fees. Net monthly interest payment of £443.44. Total gross interest payable £239,093. Loan is repayable at the end of the term. Mortgage guarantee policy may be required. In addition to your property the loan is secured on an endowment policy. Minimum age 20 years. Written quotation available. Example based on year 1 of our 821 product which allows 5% 5% and 2% respectively to be deferred over a 3 year period. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your daily share price movements on this page. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Share Price
1	Honda Motor	100.00
2	Johnson Press	100.00
3	Belwinch	100.00
4	Barclays	100.00
5	Salvage (China)	100.00
6	Amersham	100.00
7	Beale (John)	100.00
8	Speybank	100.00
9	Hilldown (an)	100.00
10	Dalgety (an)	100.00
11	Greenall Wat	100.00
12	Holical Bar	100.00
13	Soma Gp	100.00
14	Post	100.00
15	Bilham (P)	100.00
16	AIM	100.00
17	Bent Walker	100.00
18	Warner	100.00
19	Barnham (an)	100.00
20	Urd Biscuits (an)	100.00
21	Claydon	100.00
22	MERC (an)	100.00
23	PI Camell	100.00
24	Vickers	100.00
25	Jardine Math	100.00
26	Nat Amst Bk	100.00
27	New London	100.00
28	Soot & New (an)	100.00
29	Telfer	100.00
30	ECA Drilling	100.00
31	Wood (SW)	100.00
32	Lowen Group	100.00
33	Vision	100.00
34	Mind	100.00
35	Prodrill Alexander	100.00
36	Laid	100.00
37	Wyndham Eng	100.00
38	RMC Op (an)	100.00
39	Swedley	100.00
40	Campt	100.00
41	Charles (RD)	100.00
42	Kubessan T (an)	100.00
43	Provident	100.00
44	Ossas Group	100.00
45	Transport	100.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

Three people shared yesterday's £2,000 prize in the Portfolio Platinum competition. Mr Eric Morgan, from Cardiff, Mrs Michele Graver, from Beckenham in Kent, and Mr Jonathan Wilson-Croome, from Bournemouth, will each receive £666.66.

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	-------	-------	--------

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	-------	-------	--------

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	-------	-------	--------

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	-------	-------	--------

UNDATED

High	Low	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	-------	-------	--------

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	-------	-------	--------

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	-------	-------	--------

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Account closes quietly

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 26. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day April 9. Settlement day April 17.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (an) denotes Alpha Stocks.

BREWERS

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

S-Z

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

OVERSEAS TRADERS

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

TEXTILES

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

TOBACCO

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

WATER

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

LEISURE

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

MINING

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

OIL, GAS

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

Portfolio

PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited
WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£4,000
Claims required for +204 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

OVERSEAS TRADERS

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

TEXTILES

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

TOBACCO

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

WATER

High	Low	Company	Share	Price	Change
------	-----	---------	-------	-------	--------

© Ex dividend a Ex at b Forecast dividend c Interim payment passed f Prices at suspension of Dividend g Yield excludes a special dividend h Pro-rata dividend i Forecast earnings a Ex other rights b Ex share c Share split 1 to 100 d Ex payment e Ex

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

THIRD MARKET

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

Secrets saved

About 7.5 million tax returns are in the post. For the last time, married men will be expected to fill in details of their wives' earnings and savings. Those wives who have not revealed the full extent of their investments need no longer fear that the Inland Revenue will insist on a showdown. **Page 24**

Debit dilemma

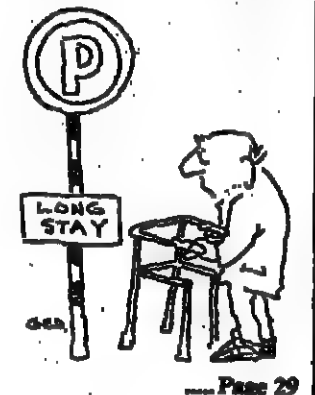
Retailers are signing up customers to make regular payments straight from their credit cards. But few customers realize they will not be able to stop the payments. This is something that only retailers can do, and they may not be inclined to in the event of a dispute. **Page 25**

Low-start costs

High interest rates are forcing a high proportion of home-buyers to opt for low-start mortgage schemes, but the additional costs can be very high in the longer term because of some of the assumptions made by the lenders. **Page 27**

Merger bonuses

Disputed mergers and possible takeovers of building societies could bring bigger and better bonuses to investors. **Page 28**



Flood of investment offers greets independence

By Jon Ashworth

THE arrival of independent taxation yesterday was greeted with a flood of new investment products designed to enable married women to use their personal tax allowances in 1990-1991. Prudential Holborn is to launch a unit trust with an expected gross yield of 15.52 per cent, one of the highest available, on April 17. The Cash Haven Trust will appeal to non-taxpayers, including 5 million housewives, because they can claim back any tax deducted.

Income can be drawn monthly if at least £10,000 is invested. On deposits of £4,000, income can be drawn quarterly, but on £2,000 or

more, it can only be taken annually or half-yearly. The minimum investment is £1,000. Income can also be reinvested. There is no initial charge, but an annual management charge of 0.5 per cent will be made.

A similar unit trust, with a gross rate of 14.25 per cent, goes on offer from MIM Britannia this weekend. CashBox will invest only in building society high interest accounts, unlike other cash unit trusts, which invest in a range of instruments. Interest is paid at a net rate of 10.68 per cent, leaving non-taxpayers to reclaim the difference. There is an annual charge of 0.5 per cent. The minimum investment is £1,000, and income is paid twice a year. Nation-

wide Anglia has launched a new gross paying account through its Isle of Man subsidiary. The Bradford & Bingley Building Society was the first of many societies to offer gross paying accounts ready for independent taxation.

Nationwide Anglia's Independent account pays a top gross rate of 15.75 per cent on £50,000, with three months' notice. The £5,000 minimum earns 14.25 per cent gross. Savers can also opt for instant access or draw income each month. If the monthly option is taken up, the gross rate on £5,000 falls to 13.25 per cent.

Smaller savers can earn 15 per cent gross on as little as £500 by

putting their money into an investment bond with the Skipton Building Society. The Skipton Major Bond will mature on April 6, 1991, allowing it to pay interest without deducting tax first. The interest rate works out at 11.25 per cent net. The maximum investment of £20,000, earning 15 per cent for a full year, would earn £3,000 in interest – just within the single person's tax allowance of £3,005. Scarborough Building Society's new Chancellor Bond will pay 16.25 per cent gross on £250, provided it is invested for at least a year. Money can be withdrawn at any time, with the loss of 90 days' interest.

Another way to earn interest gross

before April, 1991, is to put £50,000 in a time deposit. These are offered by some banks and societies. The investment term on time deposits, which pay between 14.75 per cent and 15.5 per cent, ranges from one month to five years. No withdrawals are allowed during that time.

National Westminster Bank's Treasury Reserve Account requires a minimum deposit of £50,000 to be invested for a fixed period of at least seven days. The rate of interest, linked to money markets, stands at 14.75 per cent on terms of two months to one year.

More than £17 million has been invested in Scottish Amicable's cash unit trust since its February launch.

NatWest aid for holders of Gas

BRITISH Gas investors, numbering 2.6 million, should be able to sell their shares through 270 branches of National Westminster Bank this year and receive a cheque immediately (Lindsay Cook writes).

NatWest stockbrokers are conducting a pilot scheme in the Bristol area, which it expects to extend to all British Gas's ordinary shareholders.

The scheme allows investors to use a NatWest touchscreen for share sales worth up to £10,000 and to receive an instant cheque.

Mr Neil Stapley, managing director of NatWest Stockbrokers, said: "It is likely that when it is extended to all our touchscreens, the cash facility will be on offer for three months."

"It is the ideal solution for people who... do not know how to deal." The minimum fee is £25, and NatWest is also offering a postal dealing service at £12. Mr Stapley added that NatWest was looking at offering cash for other shares through its touchscreens.

It is likely that NatWest will extend the instant cash service to other privatization stocks and to popular shares such as Marks and Spencer and J Sainsbury.

Revenue takes tougher line over late payment of tax

By Lindsay Cook

THE Inland Revenue has launched a tough drive to catch people who do not pay their tax on time. And more bailiffs are being used in an attempt to frighten late payers into settling their bills.

Early-morning and late-night telephone calls are already being made by officials chasing up tax bills, according to the National Audit Office. A pilot scheme operated by 50 staff at the Revenue's accounts office at Shipley, west Yorkshire, is being used to recover unpaid tax, which amounted to £5 billion when last monitored.

The Revenue is may apply to raise the limit for debts from £500 to £1,000.

The "intensive telephoning" takes place out of office

hours to give the tax officials the advantage of taking late payers by surprise. A spokesman said: "We are targeting and getting people who are out at work all day. When we make contact, we ask them why they haven't paid."

The amount owed under Schedule D has increased in recent years due to the 25 per cent rise in the number of self-employed – from 2 million to 2.5 million – and the average 30 per cent increase in earnings over four years.

Up to 400 calls a day are being made to those owing tax, and those with the largest amounts outstanding are likely to be called first.

The Revenue could then make a distraint call, with a bailiff, on the taxpayer to mark items of furniture or office equipment that would be sold to pay the tax bill. Thousands of these calls are being carried out on people who have ignored the three reminders for January 1 tax bills issued to them.

In most cases a levy was not made because the debt was usually paid before the goods were removed for sale. Distraint is an effective method for the Revenue to use to



recover payment. The Revenue has the power to distraint on goods without obtaining a court judgment. It says there may be more scope for using distraint in some regions and is keen for its use to be increased. In the year to October 31, 1988, 231,600 such calls were made and accounted for 79 per cent of all enforcement actions taken in

that year. The previous year, that figure was 25 per cent. Bailiffs are called in most frequently in west London, where 55 per cent of recovery actions involve distraint.

Small debts of up to £500 can be recovered through magistrates courts at the moment, but this limit may be raised to £1,000 as the Revenue is ready to seek the

agreement of the Home Office to double the limit.

The Revenue usually issues three reminders to the self-employed and other taxpayers with debts. The first one goes out two weeks after the tax is due to be paid. The second, which is called a "final demand", goes out three weeks later, and the third, also a "final demand", is sent after another two and a half weeks.

It therefore takes nine to 10 weeks after the bill is due before the debt is sent to a local collection office for enforcement action. All debts of more than £4,500 are given priority treatment, with higher grade officers working on them. Cases involving more than £20,000 have a shorter reminder period of about five weeks, while sums of more than £100,000 are referred to the collection office the day after the due date.

Since July last year, the Revenue has strengthened the wording of the third reminder. But the NAO says that it still has less effect than the first two reminders.

The Revenue says its reminder period is now longer than those used by other national bodies involved in the collection of debts.

Airways counts cost of success

By Our Family Money Staff

AIRWAYS Homes, the star of the Business Expansion Scheme season, was counting the cost of its own success this week. For while more than 4,000 investors have put £20 million into the issue, how they will get their money out in five years' time remains far from clear.

It had been hoped that the Airways Housing Trust, which manages the properties, would be in a position to buy back all the shares from investors at a favourable rate at the end of the term. But a director admitted this week that the success of the issues made this a less likely option.

A stock-market listing may now be the only sure way for investors to realize their gains. Mr Simon Tattersfield, chief executive of the Airways Housing Association, which owns the trust, stated it would not be in a position to buy all the investors out.

It had been argued in the prospectuses that the Airways Housing Trust was able to give investors a better price for their shares than if the properties were sold on the open market. They were warned that this was not definite.

Almost £150 million has been raised during 1989-90 under the BES.

SCHOOL FEES PLANNING

Ask for our new booklet now. Ring our free Moneyline from 9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m., 7 days a week, on 0800 282 101

SAVE & PROSPER THE INVESTMENT BOOK

NORWICH UNION

The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Society will be held at the Society's Offices, Surrey Street, Norwich, on Tuesday 15 May 1990 at 12 noon for the transaction of the following business:

To receive and consider the Reports of the Directors and Auditors and the Accounts for 1989.

To elect Directors in the place of those retiring.

To appoint Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

Dated this 6th day of April 1990. By order of the Board

HW Urring Secretary Surrey Street Norwich

INTEREST RATE ROUND-UP

Bank	Overnight	3 months	6 months	12 months	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c	5.00	5.10	4.80	none	7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits						
Barclays	10.80	10.80	9.80	25,000-50,000	1 mth	01-426 1567
BSA	11.81	11.81	9.45	25,000-50,000	8 mth	01-426 1567
Lloyds	10.40	10.40	9.50	2,500 no max	1 mth	0253 0915
Midland	11.24	11.24	9.50	2,500 no max	6 mth	Local Branch
NatWest	10.40	10.40	9.50	10,000 no max	1 mth	01-250 2606
	10.72	10.72	9.50	10,000 no max	6 mth	01-250 2606
	10.63	10.63	9.50	10,000-24,000	1 mth	01-728 1080
	11.00	11.00	9.50	10,000-24,000	6 mth	01-728 1080
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland	10.04	11.18	8.94	2,500 none	001-442 7777	
Barclays	8.50	8.94	7.87	1,500 none	0904 252060	
Prime a/c						
Co-operative	7.10	7.30	5.84	No limit none	01 825 0543	
Citibank	9.25	9.25	7.40	1,000 none	051 969 2076	
Lloyds	7.20	7.00	5.84	500 none	01-325 3381	
Midland	8.50	8.94	7.87	2,000 none		
NatWest	8.00	9.31	7.45	500 none	01-374 3374	
Special Reserve						
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.75	10.11	8.00	2,500 none	001-555 8555	
TSB (England & Wales)	9.00	9.00	7.30	2,000 none	01-400 6000	
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Sav A/c	8.15	8.15	4.92		1 mth	none
Best buy – largest soc:						
Barclays	8.50	9.30	7.92	250 min	none	
Barclays & Prov	10.50	10.50	8.40	500 min	none	
BSA	11.30	11.30	9.00	5,000 min	90 day	
Midland	11.55	11.55	9.50	10,000 min	1 mth	
Bradford & Bingley	12.90	12.90	10.31	10,000 min	1 year	
Best buy – all socs:						
Cheltenham & Gloucester	11.30	11.50	9.19	5,000 min	none	
St Pauls	12.25	12.25	9.70	3,000 min	90 day	
Monmouth & Pwllheli	12.52	12.52	10.01	10,000 min	90 day	
Standard	12.70	12.70	10.15	5,000 min	1 mth	
Cash/Current Accounts						
Barclays	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 min	Return rate	
BSA	6.80	6.80	5.52	500 min	with larger	
NatWest	8.00	6.00	4.80	500 min	with larger	
Compiled by Moneyline. Call 011 404 1700 for further details.						
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-648-4555
Investment A/c	12.75	9.56	7.85	5-25,000	1 mth	041-648-4555
Income Bond	12.50	9.38	7.67	2,500-25,000	2 mth	041-648-4555
Deposit Bond	12.50	9.38	7.67	15-1,000	8 day	041-648-4555
3rd Party Cert	7.50	7.50	7.50	20-200,000	14 day	041-648-4555
General	5.01	5.01	5.01			
Extension Rate	12.00	9.32	7.25	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-648-4555
Capital Bond						
Accum	13.00	13.00	11.05	20,000 min	1-10 yrs	Figures from
New Direction Plan	12.10	12.10	10.28	5,000 min	2 yrs	Choice of
Liberty Life	12.00	12.00	10.30	1,000 min	3 yrs	where call
General Portfolio	11.50	11.50	9.77	1,000 min	4 yrs	01 404 5765
Providence Capital	11.50	11.50	9.77	10,000 min	5 yrs	for details
HOLIDAY SAVING						
BSA (February 88-90)	15.0%					£175.75
Bank of Scotland	15.0%					267.00
Barclays	15.0%					267.00
Credit Union	15.0%					267.00
2.5% for balances below £500. All 2.5% of interest tax free. Interest accounts for withdrawal of £500 or less. Withdrawal of £500 or less will result in 2.5% of interest being lost. Interest accounts for withdrawal of £500 or less. Withdrawal of £500 or less will result in 2.5% of interest being lost. Interest accounts for withdrawal of £500 or less. Withdrawal of £500 or less will result in 2.5% of interest being lost.						

Bank	Overnight	3 months	6 months	12 months	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Sav A/c	8.15	8.15	4.92		1 mth	none
Best buy – largest soc:						
Barclays	8.50	9.30	7.92	250 min	none	
Barclays & Prov	10.50	10.50	8.40	500 min	none	
BSA	11.30	11.30	9.00	5,000 min	90 day	
Midland	11.55	11.55	9.50	10,000 min	1 mth	
Bradford & Bingley	12.90	12.90	10.31	10,000 min	1 year	
Best buy – all socs:						
Cheltenham & Gloucester	11.30	11.50	9.19	5,000 min	none	
St Pauls	12.25	12.25	9.70	3,000 min	90 day	
Monmouth & Pwllheli	12.52	12.52	10.01	10,000 min	90 day	
Standard	12.70	12.70	10.15	5,000 min	1 mth	
Cash/Current Accounts						
Barclays	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 min	Return rate	
BSA	6.80	6.80	5.52	500 min	with larger	
NatWest	8.00	6.00	4.80	500 min	with larger	
Compiled by Moneyline. Call 011 404 1700 for further details.						
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-648-4555
Investment A/c	12.75	9.56	7.85	5-25,000	1 mth	041-648-4555
Income Bond	12.50	9.38	7.67	2,500-25,000	2 mth	041-648-4555
Deposit Bond	12.50	9.38	7.67	15-1,000	8 day	041-648-4555
3rd Party Cert	7.50	7.50	7.50	20-200,000	14 day	041-648-4555
General	5.01	5.01	5.01			
Extension Rate	12.00	9.32	7.25	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-648-4555
Capital Bond						
Accum	13.00	13.00	11.05	20,000 min	1-10 yrs	Figures from
New Direction Plan	12.10	12.10	10.28	5,000 min	2 yrs	Choice of
Liberty Life	12.00	12.00	10.30	1,000 min	3 yrs	where call
General Portfolio	11.50	11.50	9.77	1,000 min	4 yrs	01 404 5765
Providence Capital	11.50	11.50	9.77	10,000 min	5 yrs	for details
HOLIDAY SAVING						
BSA (February 88-90)	15.0%					£175.75
Bank of Scotland	15.0%					267.00
Barclays	15.0%					267.00
Credit Union	15.0%					267.00
2.5% for balances below £500. All 2.5% of interest tax free. Interest accounts for withdrawal of £500 or less. Withdrawal of £500 or less will result in 2.5% of interest being lost. Interest accounts for withdrawal of £500 or less. Withdrawal of £500 or less will result in 2.5% of interest being lost. Interest accounts for withdrawal of £500 or less. Withdrawal of £500 or less will result in 2.5% of interest being lost.						

LARGER LOANS					
Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Rate %	Notice	
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Cheltenham & Glouce. 0450 578732	14.05	£1K+	95	Rate cut by 0.75% for new borrowers	
Coventry 0422 333383	14.70	£50-150K	80	Rate other 0.5% cut to 31.71	
Coventry 0422 333383	14.60	£150K+	75		
Woodstock 01 854 2400	14.75	£50K+	100	Rate other 0.5% cut for 6 years	
BANKS					
Abbey National 0906 691122	14.75	£50K+	100		
OTHER (FINANCE HOUSE)					
Accommodation Mortgage 0225 450045	14.45	£25-250K	95	Rate held to 1.10.90	

Increased tax free investment*

Perpetual 90/91 Personal Equity Plans

Lowest Charges

A recent comprehensive analysis of PEPs available in 89/90 - "BEST" PEP Investor 1990 - found the Perpetual PEPs to have the lowest charges for discretionary plans and among the lowest charges for self investment and unit trust PEPs. The Perpetual 90/91 PEP has the same charging structure.

Top Performance

From its launch on 30th September '89, to 19th March '90, the Perpetual PEP Growth and Income Fund was 2nd best performing fund out of 93 funds in the UK general sector. (Broader investment powers announced in the Budget may, however, result in a sector change.) Source: Microanal.

Enhanced Value

The recent Budget improvements to PEPs will enable investors to increase contributions from £4,800 previously to a total of £6,000 per annum - of which £3,000 can be invested in unit trusts. Moreover Plan Managers now have wider investment opportunities through unit trusts, since 50% of a unit trust portfolio can be invested outside the UK.

Simple and Flexible

The 90/91 PEP from Perpetual provides for all PEP investor requirements:-

A unit trust - for investments of up to £3,000 (minimum £500 or £20 monthly)

Shares selected and managed by Perpetual

Shares selected by the Planholder

Significant new Government privatisations

*For investment of up to £6,000 less any unit trust investment. Minimum investment £500.

by **OBSERVER**
1989 UNIT TRUST
MANAGERS
OF THE YEAR

by **THE SUNDAY TIMES**
1989 INTERNATIONAL
MANAGERS
OF THE YEAR

Personal Equity Plans

- for protection from taxation of income and capital gains
- to accumulate tax free income
- to generate tax free income
- with low charges, simple administration and a full flexible range of options.

Send today

For full details of the 90/91 Personal Equity Plan. Simply complete and return the coupon below.

To: Perpetual Portfolio Management Limited, 48 Hart Street, Hemley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2AZ. Tel: (0491) 576368.
Please send me details of the Perpetual 90/91 Personal Equity Plan.

SURNAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE



Perpetual

Independent Fund Management
Member of IFMO

Perpetual Personal Equity Plans are free from Income Tax, at the time of purchase and higher rates, and Capital Gains Tax. Investors should be aware that tax consequences may be subject to statutory change. Investors should remember that the value of funds and investments, and the income earned from them, may fall as well as rise and that past performance is not a guarantee of future success.

FAMILY MONEY

Keeping the secret of wives' savings safe

By Barbara Ellis

THIS year's crop of tax returns may yield less information than the Inland Revenue hopes, as about 750,000 of the 7.4 million forms which started to go out yesterday are non-statutory. Married women who receive forms 11WP or 11W are under no obligation to fill them in.

Some women may be able to defer paying tax due without incurring any penalty if they ignore the forms. Others could use them as a starting point for straightening out their tax affairs without having to tell their husbands about secret investments, thanks to assurances given to accountants by the Revenue.

The tax returns now on their way cover allowances claimed for 1990-1991 and income received in 1989-1990, with a married couple's income being treated as that of the husband for the last time.

This means that if a married man does not happen to receive a tax return, his wife can delay paying tax, probably until the summer of 1991 on any capital gains or untaxed income for the year ended April 5.

As no statutory return has been sent to the couple, she would be entitled to inform the Revenue of her capital gain or new source of untaxed income as late as April 5 next year. The Revenue would be unable to charge any penalty or interest.

"Perhaps not a great deal of the information required by the returns will benefit taxpayers," said Mrs Mavis Seymour, independent taxation



should wish to settle any liability personally.

As married women now have a right to confidentiality, the Revenue also made it clear that an inspector would not be able to question a taxpayer about the couple's finances in the presence of the other without prior agreement from both of them.

The official warning for anyone tempted to continue receiving income without declaring it is that even small amounts will be pursued.

However, there is less in another Revenue warning than meets the eye. Statutory tax returns carry the promise: "You are required to complete this form and send it back to me within 30 days." The non-statutory forms just say "Please complete".

But a statement of practice 6/89 effectively gives taxpayers until the following October 31 to get their returns in, since it says that no interest will be charged on tax due before then, but delayed by the late arrival of the return.

A Revenue spokesman said, however, that money until October 31 would only be given on returns sent out in April.

The 30-day limit would be applied to any forms sent out later in the year, but the Revenue does not have automatic powers to charge interest or penalties for late returns.

Couples who earned a total of at least £30,510 in the tax year just ended could save tax by electing for separate taxation.

specialist at Stoy Hayward. She added that people claiming higher rate mortgage interest relief, or those due for age allowance, would have most to gain from filling in the non-statutory returns.

Tax advisers and the Revenue have clearly given some thought to wives who may have concealed savings from their husbands over a number of years and may be concerned that by submitting details to

the Revenue they might invite an extra tax bill for him, followed by abrupt discovery for her.

However, in discussions with the Institute of Chartered Accountants at the end of last year, Revenue representatives said that although husbands would remain liable for tax, interest and penalties for their wives' income for years before 1990-1991, tax inspectors would normally agree if a wife

Germany eclipses Rising Sun

GERMAN unit trusts were riding high on a new wave of optimism this month, as fund managers flocked to invest in European companies (Jon Ashworth writes).

The trusts were in top position over both one month and one year, eclipsing Japan, which is rapidly slipping down the performance charts.

Brown Shipley German was top over one month, before changes are taken into ac-

count, and ranks in the top three over one year, according to Microanal.

Mr Wolf Mandt-Merk, who manages the fund from Hamburg, said the changes sweeping Eastern Europe had created a huge potential for investors. But he issued a warning that the German market will remain highly volatile for some time.

He said: "This is a unique situation which will lead to a period of multiple expansion. East Germany badly needs its enormous amount of rearmament. Buildings are dilapidated and industry will have

to modernize."

Analysts have warned investors to expect a rocky ride in Germany for at least the next year. Mrs Lynne Ridgway, who manages Lloyds Bank German Growth, said the short-term cost of setting up in East Germany would be very high, especially for retail and chemical groups.

Construction and engineering companies would benefit more quickly since their start-up costs were low. Lloyds Bank German Growth was third over one month and top over one year. The Brown Shipley fund

gained 15.48 per cent in March, against 12.47 per cent on the Dax index. Over one year, an investment of £100 would have grown to £169, after charges.

Japan tracker funds followed Tokyo in its nosedive last month. James Capel Japan Index lost 17.2 per cent, while similar funds from Morgan Grenfell and Legal & General lost 16.9 per cent. The Nikkei Dow average lost 11.56 per cent on the month. European funds, including those specializing in Germany, made up eight of the top 10 unit trusts over one month.

TOP AND BOTTOM UNIT TRUSTS OVER 12 MONTHS

Top 10		Bottom 10		Source: Microanal
Lloyds Bank German Growth	164.71	Barclays Unicorn Japan & Genl	98.10	
GT Germany	163.05	Brown Shipley Recovery	99.07	
Brown Shipley German	161.62	Murray Smaller Companies	98.23	
Royal Trust F&T Single & Malsy	161.18	BC British Growth	97.78	
NIM Japan Smaller Companies	160.92	MIM British Smaller Cos	97.64	
Abtrust Far East Emerg Economis	158.67	Royal Trust Smaller Companies	97.47	
Schroder Japanese Sm Cos	157.94	Aelma Financial & Property	97.21	
Thornion European Opportunities	157.02	James Capel Japan Index	96.58	
Aelma European Growth	155.07	Aelma Smaller Companies Growth	94.82	
FS European Growth	154.86	Windsor Smaller Companies	93.94	

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR VISA AND ACCESS HOLDERS

REDUCE YOUR INTEREST RATE



Change to our VISA and Mastercard and you could save yourself a lot in interest charges.

Our interest rate is just 1.85% a month (APR 24.6% for purchases and 24.9% for cash).

Just compare this with the rates shown in the table.

You can even transfer your existing Access and VISA card balances to our cards and pay less interest immediately.

Added to which, with us you can choose the statement date and credit limit that best suits you.

COMPARE THE INTEREST RATES			
	Monthly	APR purchases	APR cash
Robert Fleming/Save & Prosper VISA and Mastercard	1.85	24.6	24.9
Access (Midland, NatWest)	2.20	29.8	29.8
Lloyds Bank Access (212 annual fee)	1.90	26.8	26.8
Barclaycard (VISA)	2.20	29.8	29.8
Trustcard (VISA)	2.30	31.8	31.8

If you are a homeowner with a regular income post the coupon or use our free Moneyline and we'll send you more details.

FREE MONEYLINE 0800 282 101

9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. 7 DAYS A WEEK

For Save & Prosper Group Limited, Prospect, Riverside House, 100, The Strand, London WC2R 0PH. Please send me full written details and an application form for Save & Prosper VISA and Mastercard with Robert Fleming.

Mr Mrs Miss
Address

Postcode
Home tel. (STD code) No

Existing Account No. (if any)

Further information: APR - annual percentage rate of charge. The APR for cash advances is 29.8% and for purchases is 24.6%. The rate of interest is quoted above and may be subject to variation. The cardholder is required to make monthly payments to clear the account. The cardholder may use the card only within the credit limit and may not use it to finance any other financial transaction. The cardholder must not use it to finance any other financial transaction. The cardholder must not use it to finance any other financial transaction.

TIME DEPOSIT

Halifax Building Society announces an attractive opportunity for those with substantial sums of money to invest.

It's called a Time Deposit, a high return investment for sums of £50,000 or more.

It offers significant advantages for the astute investor.

For example, interest is paid gross,

NOW THERE'S A SECURE WAY INTO THE BIG TIME

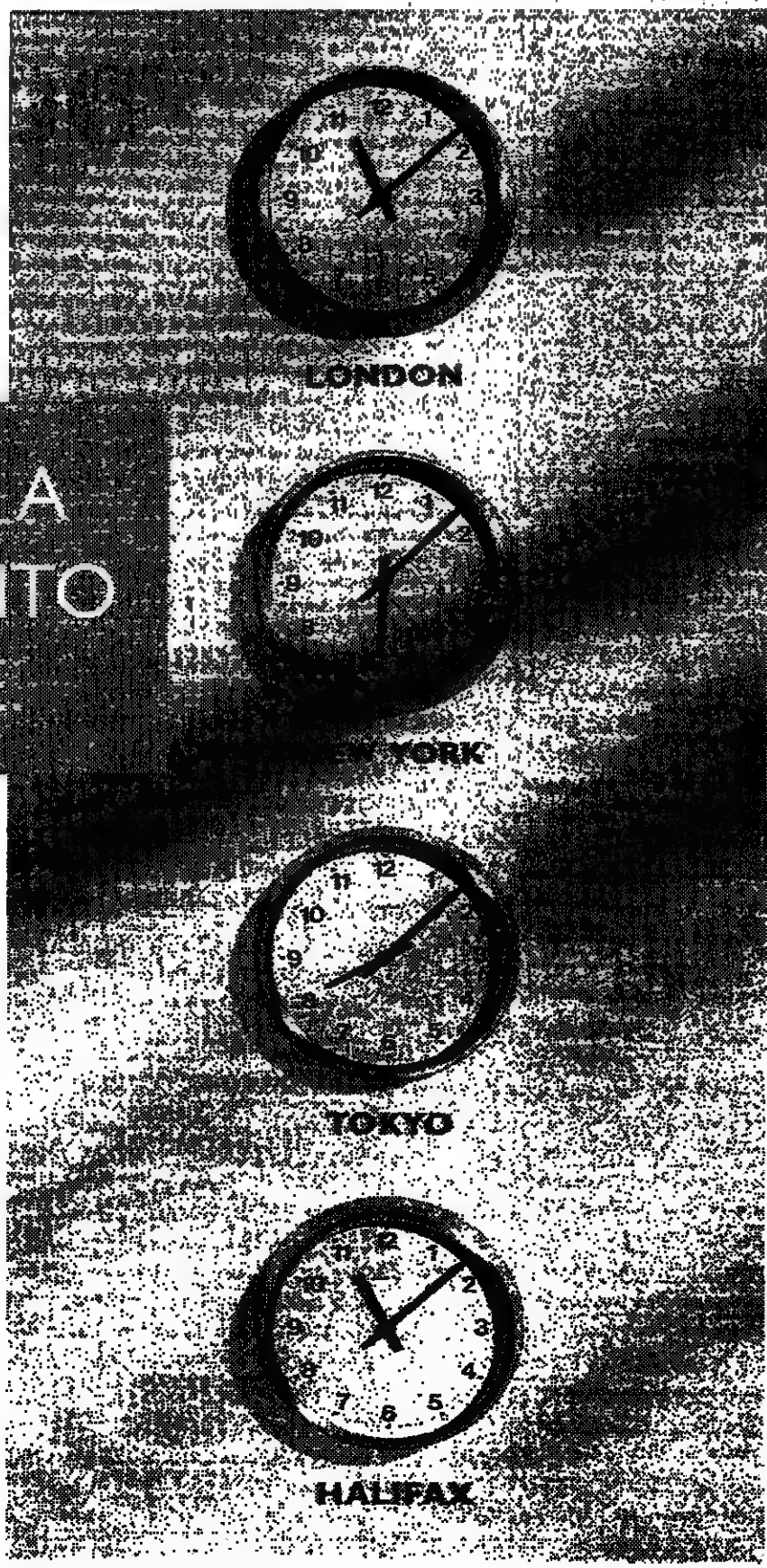
which can make this a very tax-efficient investment. Especially with independent taxation for husbands and wives being introduced on April 6th.

Then there's the interest rate. Rates are set to reflect money market conditions (you can check the going rate at Halifax branches) which means that there's the potential for a very high return indeed.

What's more, your rate is fixed for the full term of the Deposit.

As for the term itself, that's entirely up to you; you can choose any period from 1 month to one year. (With the option of reinvesting the capital or capital and interest.)

If you'd like to talk more about Time Deposits, why not call into your nearest Halifax branch? It's your open door to a very attractive return.



FAMILY MONEY

Little credit in card debits

By Tony Hetherington

Direct debits are an administrative dream for many companies which regularly have to collect fees or subscriptions from the public. The signed authority given by the customer gives access to his or her bank account and the company can take whatever amount is due. No cheque is needed, and no time is wasted with invoices or receipts.

Many companies are now taking the system a stage further, and operating direct debits against credit-card accounts. Customers who are reluctant to sign a direct debit agreement based on their bank account might be less reluctant to have their credit card debited.

This can, however, turn sour for customers who want to cancel a credit-card direct debit. One significant difference between direct debits from a bank account and those from a credit card is that customers have effectively surrendered the right to stop payments. Only the retailer in whose favour the direct debit was granted, can actually terminate it.

Mr Tony Firshman, a computer consultant from west London, rented a computer mailbox from Microlink Communications Limited. He paid the monthly rental

through a direct debit agreement under which Microlink took the fee from his Barclaycard account.

Last November, Mr Firshman decided to cease using the mailbox, and wrote to Barclaycard and Microlink.

Barclaycard replied: "We regret we are unable to cancel your direct debit with Microlink Communications Limited. Once you have agreed with a merchant that they may charge your Barclaycard account at regular intervals for transactions or services, we have to accept the charges to your account."

Mr Firshman was amazed that he could not put a stop to payments from his own credit card, which is operated by Barclays Bank, whereas if the direct debit had been from a Barclays Bank account, he could cancel it easily.

He said: "It is ludicrous. The bank's system is the other way around, as it should be. I am not at all concerned for the money. It is just that I, along with 90 per cent of the population, would not be aware that this could happen."

It should be written into the rules that a cardholder can cancel a direct debit by contacting the card company.

"Microlink is a respectable organization, but crooks could



Tony Firshman: Barclaycard debits were unstoppable make a big killing and disappear."

A Barclaycard spokeswoman confirmed that a direct debit puts all the power into the hands of the retailer, but added that the company's prime concern was for the cardholder.

She said: "We believe Mr Firshman when he says he has asked Microlink to cancel the agreement, and as he received no response, we have taken things into our own hands. The company put through a

accepted by the card company. In the event of a problem, the bank would act as intermediary."

Lloyds Bank also said it would referee disputes between cardholders and retailers, but confirmed that, like Barclaycard, its cardholders did not have the right to cancel a direct debit.

Midland, however, said it would intervene on a cardholder's behalf to stop an unwanted payment.

A spokesman said: "If the customer said he did not want to pay any further debits, the card company would debit the retailer, who should not then charge the account again. We can do this on a one-off basis, but to stop the thing permanently, the customer must go to the retailer."

Meanwhile, Mr Firshman's problems seem to be over. Mr Derek Meakin, chairman of Microlink Communications, said his company had no trace of the requests Mr Firshman made last year to cancel his mailbox and the related direct debits.

He added that he did not realize that Microlink had the power to carry on collecting rent even after Mr Firshman had asked Barclaycard to stop payments.

Microlink cancelled Mr Firshman's mailbox as from last Saturday.

THE THINKING PERSON'S GUIDE TO RETIREMENT INCOME. GROWTH. AND PEACE OF MIND.



If you're retired (or just about to) you know full well that peace of mind only comes from having the confidence and security of a high regular income and capital growth.

But how are you going to achieve it? Will your pension or Building Society savings do the whole job? And if you invest your capital in stocks and shares, can you be sure they'll deliver consistently high regular income, growth and security?

If these questions concern you, you should talk to us. Because not only do we understand those concerns - we can do something about them.

We can help you earn a high regular monthly income.

We can provide you with the capital growth you need to fight inflation over the coming years. (If any of our suggestions involve investments

which fluctuate we will tell you before you invest.)

And we can help you to pay less tax - and even get tax back for you.

We are Britain's leading retirement income specialists and act on behalf of thousands of clients from our offices throughout the country.

So for peace of mind, why not talk to us now? Complete the coupon and post it to Knight Williams & Company Limited, 161 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0LA or telephone us on 01-408 1138.

Knight Williams and Company Limited are authorised by the Financial Intermediaries (Management and Supervision) Regulations 1986 (FIMBRA), which is part of the new framework for covering protection established by the Financial Services Act.



To: Knight Williams & Company Limited, 161 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0LA.

Please send me details of Knight Williams' service to private clients and a copy of 'Self-Defence in Retirement'.

Name _____

Address _____

I am retired / I plan to retire in _____ months.

BRIEFINGS

■ Lloyds Bank launches its latest personal equity plan this weekend to enable investors to take advantage of the new £6,000 limit in these tax-free plans. The Lloyds pep can now be invested in 100 British blue-chip companies instead of 30, and there is a special dealing rate of 0.2 per cent. Two additional unit trusts, UK Equity Income and UK Equity Growth, can be linked to the managed plan. It costs £20 to join, and there is an annual management fee of 0.25 per cent. The minimum lump sum is £300 initially and £100 thereafter. Regular savings start at £25 a month.

■ Three peps from Prudential Holborn include a managed scheme investing in between five and 15 UK shares. A unit trust version can be linked to five Holborn trusts, and the Holborn Balanced pep allows a combination of each. Regular income is an option

on plans worth £10,000 or more. The initial charge for each pep is 6 per cent and the annual management charge is 1.5 per cent. Minimum investment is £1,000.

■ A new pep package from Scottish Widows gives a choice of one-off payments starting at £1,200, and monthly savings starting at £100. The first £3,000 invested will be linked to a Widows unit trust, while the remainder will be invested in British shares. Charges on the unit trust portion are 6 per cent initially and 1.25 per cent annually.

■ Investors in Smith & Nephew, the health-care group, can buy shares through a tailor-made pep free of dealing costs. The Smith & Nephew pep will accept lump sums of £240, or monthly savings of £20 - free of charges in the first year. From then on, the annual management charge is 0.5 per cent.

■ Town & Country has launched a savings account paying 12.5 per cent interest after tax. CLASSIC II has a monthly income option paying 12.35 per cent net on £10,000. Interest on the account, a limited issue, is guaranteed to be at least 5 per cent above the variable basic share rate until March 1991.

■ Bank of Scotland has introduced an account for expatriates giving a choice of high interest and a regular monthly income. The Premier Investment Account pays a top gross rate of 14.25 per cent on £25,000, or 15.22 per cent compounded over one year. Interest can be paid automatically into overseas accounts each month, free of overseas bank charges.

UNIT TRUSTS FROM £25 A MONTH

Ring our free Moneyline from 9.30 a.m. - 6.30 p.m., 7 days a week, on

0800 282 101

SW & P
PROSPER
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE



WE WON'T LET YOU FALL IN LOVE UNTIL YOU CAN MAKE A COMMITMENT.

It really is no use saying 'I do' if the next minute you have to say 'I can't'. You'll find that, when you're buying your first home, your best man will be the man from the Alliance & Leicester.

You see, we'll actually arrange your mortgage before you start house-hunting. And we'll even give you a mortgage guarantee card to prove you can raise the readies when you put your proposal to the vendor.

As a toast to our future together, we'll knock 1% off our basic mortgage rate for twelve months. We can arrange a 100% mortgage and a deposit loan for up to 10% of the property's value.

While our free step-by-step planner can help you with everything from what 'compact' and 'entirely original throughout' really mean to

sorting out the legal eagles from the vultures. A Smarter Starter Mortgage from the Alliance & Leicester. It could carry you over the threshold.

Contact us now on 0800 400450 or fill in the coupon below.

To: Alliance & Leicester Building Society, FREEPOST B5 528-43, Bristol BS5 3Y
Please send me full details of your Smarter Starter package. I will be looking for my first home within (please tick): 1 month ☐ 3 months ☐ 6 months ☐ A year or longer ☐

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____ First Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Date of Birth _____ Tel No (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

We may telephone you to make sure that you have received your information

TIM 1.1

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER

YOU GET A SMARTER INVESTOR AT THE ALLIANCE & LEICESTER.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. LOANS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THOSE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE. A MORTGAGE GUARANTEE INSURANCE POLICY MAY BE REQUIRED. *ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY, HOME ADMINISTRATION, HOME PACK, HOME EAST SUNDAY NEWS PAGE 46.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY.

THE TIMES
1000
1988-1989

THE WORLD'S TOP COMPANIES

The indispensable annual review of leading world industrial and financial companies.

TIMES BOOKS £25

Available through all bookshops, including Geographia Map Shop, Ludgate Hill, London EC4. Tel: 01-248 3554

1990/91

THE M&G UNIT TRUST PEP

To: The M&G Group, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB.
Telephone: (0245) 266266 (Business hours). Please send me details of the new-style M&G Unit Trust Personal Equity Plan. No salesman will call.

Mr/Mrs/Miss Initials Surname

Address

Postcode

NCGO

Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (Member of IMRO).
The M&G Group's unit trust company, M&G Securities Limited (member of IMRO and Lautro) is the winner of the Money Management magazine large unit trust group of the year award 1989 and the fund management group of the decade award.



THE M&G PEP

FAMILY MONEY

When bonds that tie bring timely benefits

By Margaret Dibben

GUARANTEED income bonds are paying the highest rates of interest for more than a decade. However, while several insurance companies have raised their rates four times this year, those rates may have peaked.

With guaranteed income bonds, investors can lock into these high rates for fixed periods of up to 10 years. However, one- to five-year bonds are more popular, particularly with older people who want to know exactly what their income will be for the next few years.

The problem is deciding how long to commit your money for, because the longer period bonds pay a lower rate of interest than one-year bonds. This makes one-year bonds appear more attractive, but it does not necessarily make them the best buy.

Mr Brian Watson, marketing director of Providence Capital, said: "We offer 12.25 per cent net over a one-year term, and 11.5 per cent over five years. Investors have to make a judgement about interest rates. If you think they are going to be as high in a year's time as they are now, you are probably better with the one-year because you can reinvest your money in a year's time at an equally high rate. But if you think that interest rates are on the way down in the next 12 or 18 months, you are better off locking into the longer term."

Mr John Housden, technical director of Hill Samuel Investment Services believes that longer term bonds are better at the moment because investors can lock into historically high interest rates for four or five years. Hill Samuel has raised the rate on its five-year bond to 11.2 per cent.



Chase de Vere has issued a one-year bond paying 13 per cent net for a minimum investment of £10,000. However, Mr Robin Bloor, an associate director, urges investors to look to the longer term.

Providence Capital is paying the highest rate over five years at 11.5 per cent for sums of more than £10,000.

One drawback to guaranteed bonds is that the money is tied up for the full period because they are linked to life assurance policies.

When the bond matures, investors have to decide about reinvesting the money. They can have a cheque, reinvest in the latest guaranteed bond, or put the money into another product with the company.

Some smaller insurance companies can be slow in

returning the money. If the payment is delayed, you should ask the insurance company to pay interest from the maturity date. Failing that, you can complain to the insurance companies watchdog, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation. Investments are covered by the Policyholders Protection Act.

Guaranteed income bonds will face new competition for taxpayers' money from Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts, which banks and building societies will sell from January 1991. Money invested in a Tessa will be tied up for five years but, unlike guaranteed income bonds, the rate of interest is unlikely to be fixed for that length of time.

Guaranteed income bonds are less attractive to non-taxpayers because, for the majority, you cannot reclaim the tax deducted.

Bonds deduct basic rates from the interest and the capital when it is repaid. There is no additional liability to basic rate tax, although higher rate taxpayers will have to pay the extra 15 per cent.

Usually tax on five per cent of the income is deferred each year to the end of the bond which can be an advantage for people whose income is expected to fall before during the lifetime of the bond.

But older people receiving the age allowance need to be particularly careful. Cashing in the bond on maturity could boost their income above the threshold and result in the age allowance being reduced.

Inertia relieves failed publicity

BANKS and building societies appear to have thrown away the money they have spent publicising the independent taxation system introduced yesterday, according to a MORI survey commissioned by Scottish Amicable (Barbara Ellis writes).

But the banks and societies are likely to benefit from customer inertia in the face of the change.

More than eight out of 10 couples with an income in excess of £20,000 told MORI they were aware of the changes in the taxation of married couples. How-

ever, most said they learned of the new system either from newspapers or television. None recalled any information from banks or societies.

While six in 10 recognized that married women will be assessed and taxed separately, only one in eight knew that the wife would have a separate allowance and only one in 20 realized that a husband would be able to transfer investments to his wife to reduce tax.

Inertia showed through in reactions both to independent taxation and the unclaimable composite rate tax de-

ducted from bank and building society accounts which is to be abolished next April.

Only nine per cent of people interviewed had taken action to minimize their tax, although this rose to 14 per cent among couples with one partner paying tax at 40 per cent.

But while nearly every interviewee holding bank or building society accounts knew that their interest was being paid net of CRT, only four in 10 had thought of moving their savings to a more tax efficient method of saving.

CHANCELLOR

12 MONTH VARIABLE GROSS RATE BOND

**THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR NOT
USING YOUR TAX ALLOWANCE.
THERE'S A LOT OF INTEREST
IF YOU DO.**

If you're a married woman who earns less than £3,005 a year or who doesn't earn at all there are two ways in which you can benefit from the Budget.

From today (assuming current proposals are enacted) you have a personal allowance which enables you to earn up to £3,005 without paying a penny in tax - and from April 1991 you can also receive gross interest* on your savings. And to help you take full advantage we've designed a special opportunity to let you do both!

Apply called the Chancellor, it is a 12 month gross interest bond which you can open with a minimum sum of just £250, and then in a year's time you will be free to withdraw your money at the full gross rate* of 16.25%.

16.25% GROSS

Net Equivalent 12.19%¹

Furthermore, you are also free to make one instant withdrawal (or close the account) during the term, although this will mean losing 90 days interest on the sum you withdraw, with the annual rate dropping to 15.59% gross (net equivalent 11.69%¹).

So if you want to put your personal allowance to work please complete the application form and send it together with your cheque to Scarborough Building Society, FREEPOST, Investments Direct, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO12 6BR.

Incidentally, you will also find this Bond of great interest if you are a non-taxpayer of any kind. Simply clip the coupon and we'll send you further details.

Scarborough BUILDING SOCIETY

*Assuming Basic Rate Income Tax of 25% remains unchanged

Please return your completed coupon to: Scarborough Building Society, FREEPOST, Investments Direct, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO12 6BR.

☐ I wish to open a Chancellor Bond and enclose a cheque, payable to Scarborough Building Society, for

FULL NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TEL NO

☐ I would like further information on Scarborough's Chancellor Bond.

SIGNATURE

Member of the Building Societies Association and eligible for investment by Trustees.
Assets exceeding £250 million

REF: TI 74

THE SAVE & PROSPER PEP

NOW YOU CAN INVEST UP TO

£6,000

TAX-FREE

■ Save & Prosper's new 1990/91 Personal Equity Plan allows you to use your full PEP allowance - up to £6,000 (£12,000 for a couple).

■ However much your investment makes, with a Save & Prosper PEP, there's no income tax or capital gains tax to pay.

■ With Save & Prosper's PEP you can choose to invest in a Unit Trust, a Managed Portfolio of leading British companies, or select your own shares.

■ Save & Prosper's Managed Portfolio PEP was the top performing PEP of 1989.

■ To find out more, post the coupon, talk to your financial adviser or ring Moneyline.

THE PRICE OF SHARES AND THE INCOME FROM THEM MAY GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP AND PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF FUTURE SUCCESS. TAX CONCESSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO STATUTORY CHANGE. SAVE & PROSPER GROUP LTD IS A MEMBER OF IMRO AND LAUTRO.

*Source: The WM Company

FREE MONEYLINE 0800 282 101

9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. • 7 DAYS A WEEK

To: Save & Prosper Group Limited, FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR.

Please send me details of Save & Prosper's PEPs.

I am interested in your Unit Trust PEP ☐ Managed Portfolio PEP ☐

Dealing Plan PEP ☐

Surname

Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address

Postcode

Home Tel (STD) No

Work Tel (STD) No

No salesman will call. However, our Customer Advice Service may telephone to ask if you would like further information on our Unit Trust PEP.



SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

FAMILY MONEY

Low-start to a costly finish

By Mike Goodman

HIGH interest rates have forced as many as one in four borrowers to opt for low-start mortgages, which put off payments for up to five years. But a string of charges can make the schemes look anything but a good buy.

Such deferred interest mortgages have appealed to existing homeowners, who find the prospect of cutting their mortgage payments by as much as 40 per cent irresistible.

But there are some "upfront" costs which borrowers should look at carefully. These include arrangement, valuation and solicitors fees which can run into hundreds of pounds. There is also the mortgage indemnity premium which insures the lender

against the borrower defaulting. It typically applies to loans of more than 75 per cent of a property's value, and can add up to £1,000 to the cost.

If a £60,000 mortgage was taken out on a property valued at £68,000, the loan/value ratio would be 88.2 per cent. An indemnity premium would have to be paid on the difference between 75 per cent and 88.2 per cent, amounting to £9,000. Taking a premium rate of 3.5 per cent per £1,000, the premium payable would be £315.

But on low-start deferred interest loans, the premium would be substantially higher. This is because the deferred interest is to be added on to the original loan and interest rates are assumed to stay at the same high level. The chances are that interest rates will

fall, so the amount of deferred interest will not be as great as expected. But insurers and lenders take the "worst-case scenario", adding to the cost into the bargain.

On an Abbey National loan with a three-year low-start period, the amount outstanding on a £60,000 loan is assumed to have increased to £63,240 by the end of the deferred interest period.

This means that on a property valued at £68,000, the maximum loan/value ratio is assumed to be 93 per cent, not 88 per cent.

The indemnity premium is worked out on £12,324, not £9,000. And as the maximum loan to value exceeds 90 per cent, it falls into a higher 4.5 per cent charge band, and the premium

would cost £553. The deeper the initial "discount" on the standard mortgage rate, the more the deferred interest is assumed to add to the initial loan.

On a Citibank mortgage, where the rate is discounted 5 per cent in the first year, the outstanding loan balance is assumed to "peak" at 130 per cent of the original loan, and it is not uncommon for the indemnity premium on a £60,000 loan to exceed £1,000.

Instead of charging an indemnity premium, on its low start mortgage, the Nationwide Anglia adds 0.75 per cent to the mortgage rate for the first year. On a £60,000 loan, this would put the full year's cost of the additional interest at £450.

Family wins shock therapy

By Lindsay Cook

A FAMILY has won £4,000 in compensation from its local council after suffering electric shocks when crossing the road. Camden Council paid the money to the family of husband, wife, two young daughters and a dog which made the claim through Legal Protection Group, its legal expenses insurer. The council had originally offered £1,000.

The family members were walking home from a shopping trip in North London and stopped at a traffic island when crossing the road.

Both daughters received electric shocks through their shoes and felt "tingling" in their hands. The father touched the ground and suffered a shock to his arm.

Meanwhile, the dog was writhing in pain on the ground and bit the mother on her hand as she tried to comfort it.

After the incident, the police cordoned off the traffic island, which was found to be "live". It was discovered that rain water had seeped into the ground and come into contact



with a damaged electric main. Damages were sought "for anxiety and distress", as well as a small sum for cleaning bills and fares for taxis taken to ferry the dog to the vet.

Mr James Painter, assistant marketing manager at LPG, part of the Sun Alliance group, said: "The vet diagnosed the dog as having undergone a personality change resulting in nervousness."

The family was covered by an LPG policy. In a telephone

call to LawCall, the group's 24-hour advisory service, a solicitor suggested that the family should seek compensation from the local authority.

The father wrote to the local council concerned, explaining the circumstances and asking for compensation. He rejected the £1,000 that was offered to him initially.

He was then authorized to appoint a solicitor and pursue the claim under his Family Legal Benefits Insurance.

After consulting counsel, the solicitor issued a statement of claim for £5,000 and the council offered £4,000 plus a costs in full settlement.

The policy, which the family holds, costs £80 a year. It covers all members for up to £5,000 worth of legal costs per claim. In addition, it offers "all risks" cover, including employment disputes, personal injury claims, consumer and residential disputes. However, it excludes claims arising from business activities.

Such policies, which allow people to take legal action without risking heavy costs, have grown in popularity in recent years.

The Bradford & Bingley Building Society offers legal expenses insurance through Allianz Legal Protection from £3.50 a month, rising to £5. There are estimated to be between 100,000 and 200,000 families covered by stand-alone legal expenses policies. Household and motor insurance policies also offer limited forms of cover as an addition from as little as £7 a year.

Trust aims for 13% dividend

AN INVESTMENT trust expecting to pay a gross dividend of 13 per cent in its first year is launched today by Greig Middleton, the broker, and Bell Lawrie, its co-sponsor (Lindsay Cook writes).

The Dartmoor Investment Trust will be managed by Ian Henderson Associates, the Exeter-based investment house.

The new fund has 20 million ordinary shares on offer at £1 and has completely replaced with pension funds and insurance companies the £16 million of debenture stock, offering a return of 6 per cent above the annual increase in the retail prices index.

The ordinary shares may appeal to pensioners, with a higher initial level than the return from building society deposits or gilts on £1,000, and quarterly dividends.

It is the first investment trust to qualify for the new £6,000 investment limit for personal equity plans.

Why is the first person you'd consult about your will the last person you'd ask about savings and investments?

There's a new way of obtaining independent financial advice.

It's as old as the legal system. As convenient as the High Street and as trustworthy as your solicitor.

It's a local law firm. One who's a member of the Solicitors Financial & Property

Services Company, a nationwide grouping of solicitors advised by one of Europe's largest financial services groups.

And able to arrange sound, dependable advice for your financial affairs.

From life assurance to pension

planning, mortgages to investment, who better to guide you on the big decisions in life?

For details of SFPS solicitors who are able to help you with mortgages, pensions and other financial products, complete the coupon today or call free on 0800 800 464.

"Before you worry about your inheritors, have you sorted out your own financial future?"



Call free on 0800 800 464 or send completed coupon to: SFPS, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2 1PL. Please let me know the name of my nearest SFPS solicitor. I wish to seek advice on:

☐ Investments ☐ Pensions ☐ Inheritance Tax Planning ☐ Mortgages

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TT 7/04

SFPS is an appointed representative of Sedgwick Financial Services Ltd, a member of IMRO

THE
Solicitors
Financial & Property
Services
COMPANY

YOU INVEST LESS.
CONFED AND TESSA
DO THE REST.

£7,500

£9,000*

MORE THAN

£14,000*

You invest £7,500 and Confederation Bank guarantees each year to pay your maximum TESSA contribution (£9,000* over five years). At the end of 1995, you'll receive a total of more than £14,000! It's that simple.

For savers there's no better deal than TESSA, the new Tax Exempt Special Savings Account.

At Confederation Bank, we've taken it a major step further: we guarantee that your £7,500 will become more than £14,000* by December 31st 1995.

Here's how. Before your money goes into your TESSA, we guarantee a fixed rate of 13% (where you're liable for tax, this will be deducted from the interest payments at prevailing rates). Then, every January, starting 1991, we pay the maximum amount allowed into your TESSA.

The interest on your TESSA

(where no tax is deducted) is also guaranteed at 13% and remains fixed up until 31st December 1995 when the plan matures and you collect your £14,000+.

At Confederation Bank, we offer you the very best savings packages available.

We're part of the Confederation Life Group with a reputation for integrity since 1871 and whose worldwide assets under management exceed £10,000 million.

Why not make your TESSA decision right now? It could give you something well worth looking forward to in five years time.

*Providing the basic tax rate remains at 25%. A higher or lower rate will result in a shortfall or surplus. Confederation Bank Ltd, Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN. Tel: 0438 744 238. Authorised under the Banking Act 1987.

To Confederation Bank Ltd, Lytton Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 2NN. Telephone: 0438 744 238. I am 18 years of age or over. I confirm that this will be the only TESSA account I will hold.

I enclose a cheque for £7,500. ☐ Please send me further details. ☐

Name Address

Postcode National Insurance No.

Signature Date

Confederation Bank

BETTER • ALL • ROUND

LIMITED OFFER
Closes 15th May
We reserve the right to close the offer at any time without notice.

Skipton
MAJOR
Bond

15%
GROSS
FOR NON-TAXPAYERS

GROSS INTEREST RATE
FOR NON-TAXPAYERS*

The Chancellor, in his recent Budget proposed that, from 6th April 1991, non-taxpayers will be able to have their interest paid gross.

Here's an opportunity to take advantage of this proposal right away!

The Skipton Major Bond pays 15% gross interest per annum (net rate 11.25%).

The Bond is, effectively, a term investment which matures on 6th April 1991, after the new tax arrangements take effect. So all the interest earned up to that date can be paid to you gross, subject to the legislation at that time.

WHO CAN BENEFIT?

Married women, pensioners and others who are not liable to tax can all benefit from an investment in this Bond, so long as they remain non-taxpayers.

MINIMUM INVESTMENT
ONLY £500

You can invest any amount, from as little as £500 and you can add to your investment at any time, up to a maximum balance of £20,000. This ceiling has been set to help protect your non-taxpaying status. The gross interest earned per annum on £20,000 (at the current rate) is £3,000, which is below the current personal allowance of £3,005.

ACCESS TO YOUR MONEY

After the first 30 days you can withdraw any amount you like immediately, subject to the loss of an amount equivalent to 30 days gross interest on the amount you withdraw.

OPENING YOUR ACCOUNT

To obtain a Skipton Major Bond just call at your nearest Skipton Branch, or simply post your cheque with the coupon.

Please use first class post to avoid delay.

THE INVESTOR'S BUILDING SOCIETY



HEAD OFFICE
HIGH STREET, SKIPTON BD23 1DN
TELEPHONE: 0756 700500

MEMBER OF THE BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION

Skipton MAJOR Bond

ACCOUNTS CAN BE OPENED IN ONE NAME ONLY.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

I wish to open a Skipton Major Bond Account and enclose a cheque for

(Min. £500. Max. £20,000 per account). CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY.

Please send me more details. ☐

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TEL NO

Rate effective 9th April 1990.

*The payment of interest on this account will be subject to the tax legislation applicable at the time of payment. The contents of this advertisement are based on the Society's understanding of the Chancellor's Budget proposals for the tax year 1990/1991, which may be subject to amendment and do not become law until the Finance Act is passed. On maturity capital and interest accrued will be transferred to Skipton Sovereign Shares or the sum may be transferred or withdrawn on your written instructions. Interest rate variable. Should your balance fall below the minimum of £500, the Society's then current Paid-up Share rate (gross) will apply. A minimum balance of £1 must be maintained in the Bond until 6th April 1991. Early withdrawals will reduce the overall rate of interest achieved. Withdrawals subject to branch and agency limits.

YOUR MONEY & HOW TO KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

Your house, your furniture, your car — everything you own — is vulnerable to tax on your death. If the total value is over £128,000 and you haven't taken the correct steps, the tax man — not your family — could have the first claim on your estate.

"Inheritance Tax" is free from Allied Dunbar. It shows you how you might protect your family from tax on your property and possessions. How you might arrange your affairs so the money goes where you want it to go. And how you might ensure your dependants will be fully provided for.

FREE



To receive your copy, simply complete the coupon and post it to: Sue Hunt, Allied Dunbar Assurance plc, FREEPOST, Swindon SN1 1XZ (no stamp needed).

We will let you have details of our free consultation service at the same time.

Please send WITHOUT OBLIGATION my copy of "Inheritance Tax" and details of your free consultation service.

(Block Capitals please)

Name (Mr Mrs Miss) _____ Initials _____

Address _____

Town _____

Country _____ Post Code _____

Telephone (Home/Work) _____

NO STAMP NEEDED
OR PHONE 0800 010 500
(24 HOURS)

**ALLIED
DUNBAR**
Member of LAUTRO

Portfolio

PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 21).

To the Times that the 1st of the 1st

1	44	11	49	22	48
2	47	12	50	23	49
3	48	13	51	24	50
4	49	14	52	25	51
5	50	15	53	26	52
6	51	16	54	27	53
7	52	17	55	28	54
8	53	18	56	29	55
9	54	19	57	30	56
10	55	20	58	31	57
11	56	21	59	32	58
12	57	22	60	33	59
13	58	23	61	34	60
14	59	24	62	35	61
15	60	25	63	36	62
16	61	26	64	37	63
17	62	27	65	38	64
18	63	28	66	39	65
19	64	29	67	40	66
20	65	30	68	41	67
21	66	31	69	42	68
22	67	32	70	43	69
23	68	33	71	44	70
24	69	34	72	45	71
25	70	35	73	46	72
26	71	36	74	47	73
27	72	37	75	48	74
28	73	38	76	49	75
29	74	39	77	50	76
30	75	40	78	51	77
31	76	41	79	52	78
32	77	42	80	53	79
33	78	43	81	54	80
34	79	44	82	55	81
35	80	45	83	56	82
36	81	46	84	57	83
37	82	47	85	58	84
38	83	48	86	59	85
39	84	49	87	60	86
40	85	50	88	61	87
41	86	51	89	62	88
42	87	52	90	63	89
43	88	53	91	64	90
44	89	54	92	65	91

By Lindsay Cook

INVESTORS and borrowers seeking windfall gains when building societies are taken over were given a new set of considerations by the Bristol & West Building Society this week when it announced that it was tying to Eagle Star, the insurer, and receiving a cash injection of £50 million.

The arrangement with Eagle Star, part of BAT Industries, gives the tenth-largest society the opportunity to broaden its range of products and expand its regional network in the prosperous South-west, where property prices have not suffered to the same extent as those in London and the South-east.

Its main rival in the region is the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, which has not yet given up hope of winning the Frome Selwood Building Society with an offer which exceeds terms from a rival.

When members of the Frome Selwood receive voting papers on the proposed merger with the Stroud & Swindon Building Society on April 23, details of the C & G offer will be included. This will make it the first contested building society merger, with members being offered by the C & G substantially more than the Stroud & Swindon's two per cent bonus.

Members will not be able to vote for the C & G offer as an alternative. They must vote for or against the offer being recommended by their society's board: a merger with the Stroud & Swindon. To have any chance of persuading the Frome members to forego the

almost immediate payout from the Stroud & Swindon, the C & G has to be making a much better offer and to be able to get the information across to members.

It is possible that members attending the meeting could put pressure on directors to put the C & G offer to the membership.

The C & G is keen to expand its branch network this year by about 10 branches, and the Frome

would account for two of these branches. The C & G, which tends to merge with existing smaller societies rather than start from scratch in a location, is likely to strengthen its presence in the South-east.

Identifying the societies that the Bristol & West and the C & G will make targets could bring double windfalls.

There is likely to be a bonus at the point of merger, and the C & G and the Bristol & West are expected to be among the first societies to be taken over by existing public companies.

For this to happen, the society would need 50 per cent of savers to vote in favour of the takeover and for 75 per cent of those who vote to be in favour of the deal.

However, with cash incentives of £800 to £1,000 being talked of for the C & G, and the Bristol & West having some £400 million to be shared out by the members, the vote might not be difficult to achieve.

To gain from such payouts, members must, under the Building Societies Act, have had qualifying accounts with the society for at least two years on the date that the takeover is announced.

That time limit could be challenged by societies in the courts. But failing that, the potential bonuses are worth the wait, particularly as most societies regarded as takeover targets are currently offering high interest rates. One building society analyst predicts that the first takeover of a society by an existing company will take place within 12 months.

The Prudential has approached at least one society, the Skipton, with a view to taking it over to process mortgage applications and provide it with a deposit-taking base. This has become more important since the Budget, which excluded insurance companies from the new tax exempt savings scheme, — Tessa — and from paying interest gross to non-taxpayers.

Mr Joseph Egerton, an analyst with the Spicer Consulting Group, advises investors looking for bonuses to first estimate what the threshold will be for any takeover payouts and then to invest at least that amount and wait for two years.

When the Abbey National

society converted itself into a public company last summer, savers who had more than £100 in their accounts received 100 free shares and the opportunity to buy others at less than the market value.

Any takeover is likely to have a higher threshold and to offer a proportionate return, so that the investor with £10,000 automatically will receive more than one with £1,000.

"The pace has heated up dramatically this year, with a number of mergers already announced," said Mr Egerton. "If a saver could identify the targets of the Bristol & West and Cheltenham & Gloucester, he could do rather well."

"The medium-sized societies will also be under pressure from the expensive Bristol & West and may decide to opt for a similar arrangement, which could lead to a takeover."

Smaller societies are also under pressure because of the new capital adequacy requirements for societies published by the Building Societies Commission last week.

However, those societies forced to look for a partner are unlikely to produce large bonuses. For example, members of the Peckham are being offered 0.75 per cent.

The Portman Wessex and Regency West of England building societies do not appear to be certain that they will get a majority for their merger, which would give bonuses of up to £100 an account. The societies have placed advertisements in national newspapers reminding members to vote.

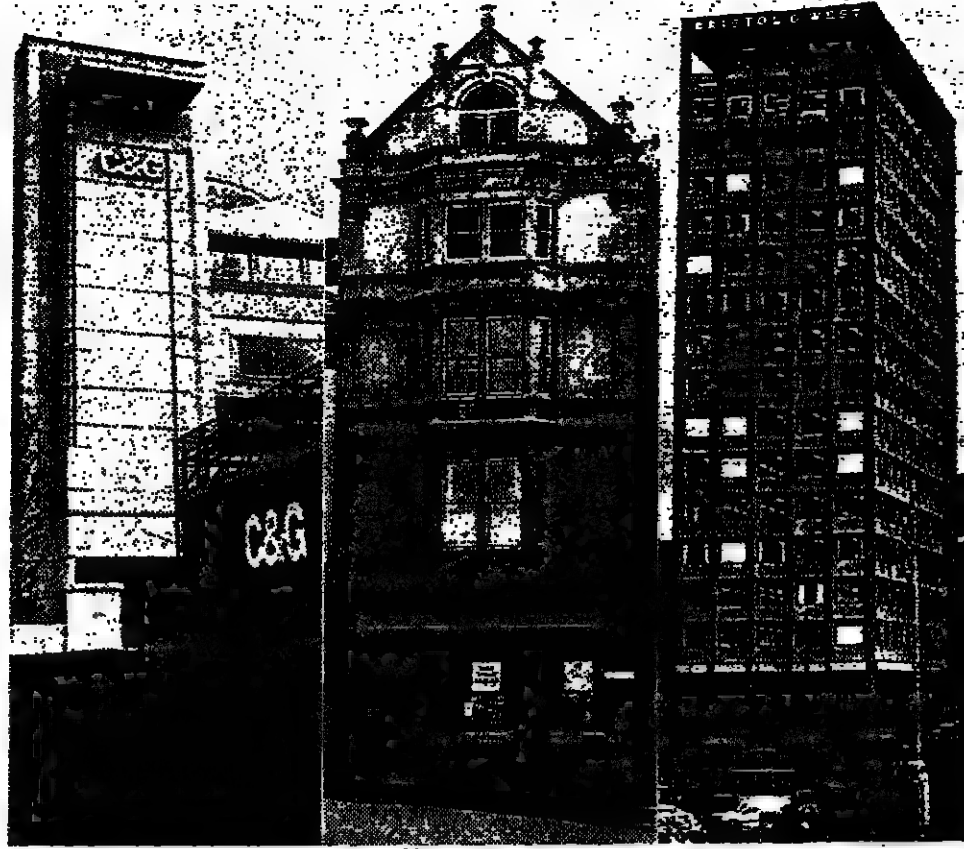
The National & Provincial was considered a front-runner for conversion on its own, but now it looks as if the society might seek a partner.

The 33-branch Norwich and Peterborough is an innovative society, which has become quiet and is rumoured to be in talks with another organization. The Birmingham Midshires, which recently lost its chief executive, and the Leamington Spa are regarded by analysts as takeover targets.

Epsom-based National Counties has the highest reserve asset ratio, at more than 20 per cent. The Mansfield, at 13.7 per cent, and the Peckham, at 10 per cent, could also provide healthy bonuses if they are taken over.

FAMILY MONEY

Picking winners in the society takeover stakes



High-rising bonuses: C&G (left), Frome Selwood, and Bristol & West (right)

Imro set to help trust holders

By Jon Ashworth

INVESTORS will find it easier to compare the performance of unit trusts if new proposals on financial reports are adopted this year.

More information to help investors judge fund performance could be a regular feature of unit trust investment from October.

A draft report on recommended changes was published this week by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, which regulates banks, pension funds and unit trust managers.

Imro proposes several changes to reports sent out to unitholders during the year, to make them more comprehensive and enable comparisons to be made more easily.

One important change would see income and expenses shown as percentages as well as in pence per unit. This would make it easier to compare the performance of different funds. Unitholders would be able to tell what sort of return a fund manager had produced, and then how much of the income had been absorbed by expenses.

A new section on portfolio movements could also be introduced into accounts, to show how actively certain shares have been traded. There would be a breakdown for each company, showing how many shares had been bought and sold. At the moment, it is more usual to show the net increase or decrease in shares held.

A statement of movements in net assets would break down gains and losses and give more detail on the effect of hedging activities. The balance sheet and income account would be more comprehensive. Items not currently disclosed, such as any payable expenses, would be explained more fully.

Mr John Morgan, Imro's chief executive, said the changes would improve the quality of financial reporting and achieve greater consistency in accounting practice.

"The presentation to unitholders of clear and consistent financial information will be of benefit both to them and the industry as a whole."

Mr Bill Sutcliffe, who led the working party which recommended the changes, said there was an obvious desire to keep things as simple as possible. He said the aim was to produce accounts which allowed investors to more readily compare like-for-like and understand what managers were doing with their investments.

Comments are invited on the proposals by May 31.

GREAT BRITISH COMPANIES!

Now you can share in the success of some of Britain's greatest companies from as little as £25 a month...

SHARE IN THE TREMENDOUS SUCCESS of some of Britain's most popular companies, with brand names such as: Cadbury, McVities, Pizzaland, Royal Doulton, KP Foods, Penguin Books, Ever Ready and many, many more... and watch your savings work much harder for you!

* **GREAT BRITISH COMPANIES** is a unit trust with a long history of success where your savings could easily outstrip your returns from Higher Interest Building Society Accounts.

* **THE BENEFITS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE!** From just £1,000, or £25 a month, if you prefer. (Details of our rising scale of **FREE BONUSES** for lump sum investors will be sent automatically.)

£10 - £150 FREE BONUS!

A rising scale of bonuses will be added to savings of £1,000 or more.

* **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT!** MIM, Britannia, one of the UK's largest and most successful unit trust companies will do all the work for you.

* **EASY ACCESS TO YOUR SAVINGS** on request. What could be simpler?

Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future growth as the price of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up.

Speak to your Independent Financial Adviser about Great British Companies, or complete and return the coupon below, or:

CALL US FREE ON 0800 010 333
9 a.m. - 6 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at weekends.

To: MIM Britannia Unit Trust Managers Limited, FREEPOST, London SE8 5BP

Please send me details of opportunities for growth in Great British Companies, without obligation.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Date of Birth _____

POST TODAY



NO STAMP NEEDED.

MIM BRITANNIA
UNIT TRUSTS

TI 774490GBC

IF YOU ALREADY INVEST IN UK SHARES (including privatisation shares), OR UNIT TRUSTS...

We can easily arrange to sell your holdings and invest the proceeds in our Great British Companies Trust. There are no dealing costs to pay. Details will be sent automatically.

MIM Britannia Unit Trust Managers Limited is a member of LAUTRO, IMRO and the UTA.

OVER ONE THOUSAND PENSIONS TO CHOOSE FROM... NO WONDER YOU NEED FINANCIAL ADVICE THAT'S INDEPENDENT.

For a list of the local Independent Financial Advisers who will offer impartial advice on your financial future, call the HOTLINE number, or complete the coupon. No salesman will call.

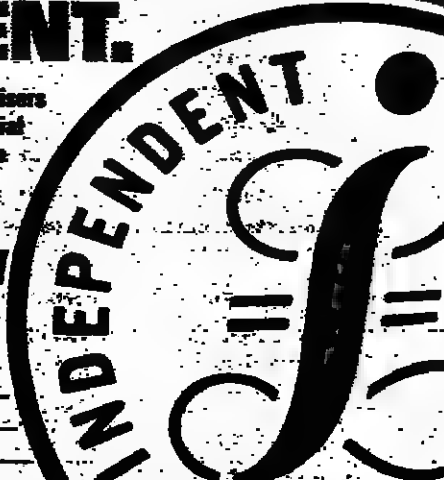
CALL 01-200 3000 OR COMPLETE THE COUPON

Send the coupon to IFA Protection Limited, Unit 3, Air Call Business Centre, Colindale Lane, London NW9 6BW.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE STICK POSTAGE



FAMILY MONEY

Sarah McConnell finds long-stay health cover is very expensive

No comfort for the poor

THE announcement last week by Mr Tony Newton, the Social Security Secretary, that he would put an extra £45 million into income support for old people in long-stay care will not cover the rising costs of residential care. It will also be no comfort to most old people who do not qualify for the maximum income support.

But the first insurance policies to cover the cost of long-term care are about to appear and medical insurers such as Bupa and Private Patient Plan are to introduce schemes soon.

Eagle Star is the only insurance company to have announced a limited form of long-stay insurance cover. It has joined the health-care company Bioplan to provide insurance for elderly people living in Bioplan's new sheltered housing development in Kidderminster.

Residents can insure themselves against climbing charges by paying premiums to keep the weekly care charge at £190 a week, even if their health deteriorates and costs increase.

The premiums depend on the age of entry into the scheme but they are high — 55-year-olds will pay £164 a month, for example, and 80-year-olds £447 a month. The resident has to pay the first 10 per cent of any increase or £80 a month, whichever is higher. The scheme is aimed at the



Affording new shelter: Ray Cuff, a director of Bioplan, at the group's housing development in Kidderminster. He is seen with a woman who is one of the residents of the new sheltered housing development.

The cost of long-stay care insurance cover that is not limited to the residents of a particular sheltered housing development is also likely to be high, although no company is yet prepared to commit itself to figures.

Mr David Cavers, the chief commercial executive of Private Patients Plan, said if a policy gave an open-ended guarantee of long-term care cover for as long as was

depending on age at entry are reviewed annually without any need for further medical examinations.

But Mr Cavers said: "We will end up with open-ended guarantee schemes because closed plans which finish after four years are not so appealing."

Long-stay-care cover will not only be expensive but will probably be hedged around with exclusion clauses if the pattern of provision in this country follows that in the United States.

The policy will pay out only if long-stay care in a nursing home or residential home is ordered by a doctor. The alternative of home nursing, which many elderly people prefer, may not be covered.

There is also likely to be an exclusion period of between 20 and 100 days before the policy begins paying out.

According to Mr James Webber, health-care consultant at Tillinghast, the actuary, elderly people might need three months of care before receiving benefit.

Mr Cavers said policy holders would have the choice of paying a single premium at the time of going into long-stay care or regular premiums earlier. The problem is that few people want to think about needing long-stay care when they are healthy, so insurance companies intend to lobby for tax relief to encourage people to begin saving.

LETTERS

Men still more equal

From Mrs I. Christopher
Sir, When Mr Lawson announced plans for separate taxation of men and women much emphasis was put on the principle of equality. However, when my husband and I recently asked for the married couple's allowance to be given to the wife rather than the husband, we were told that this was not possible and the accompanying leaflet explained that the transfer of the allowance, or part thereof, is only permissible if the husband earned less than is covered by allowances.

This ignores the issue of higher rate taxation. There must be quite a few couples where the husband earns less, perhaps because he is already retired, and part of the wife's income is subject to the higher rate tax. However, such a couple will be penalized by comparison with what still seems to be considered the

norm, is that the husband is the main breadwinner.

The term "married couple's allowance" clearly is a misnomer and seems to have been chosen to camouflage the discriminatory situation which persists in tax law.

Yours faithfully
MRS I. CHRISTOPHER,
42 Mount Avenue,
W5.

Poll-tax answer

From J. Argustin
Sir, Your correspondent Mr Eric Wilcock (page 31, Money section March 10) can avoid paying the poll tax on his mother's unsaleable flat by simply letting it to another elderly person, who will then be responsible for the community charge.
Yours faithfully,
J. ARGUSTIN,
36 Park Royal,
Montpelier Road,
Brighton.

Tax year term-account poser

From Mr Alan P. Hughes
Sir, In her article on March 24, Miss Lindsay Cook indicates how one can take advantage of the new regime by investing in a one-year term account on April 6 1990, pointing out that one would have to tie up one's money for a year and "forego any interest payments before April 6 1991."

But surely, this interest on April 6 1991 then becomes income of the tax year

1991/92, whereas non-payers need fully-tax-paid income in 1990/91 in order to be able to reclaim tax for that year and not miss out one year of being able to secure tax repayment from when independent taxation comes into force on April 6 1990?

Yours faithfully,
Alan P. Hughes,
Chartered Accountant,
36, Northey Avenue,
Chesham, Surrey.

Pop in the Post Office for gilts

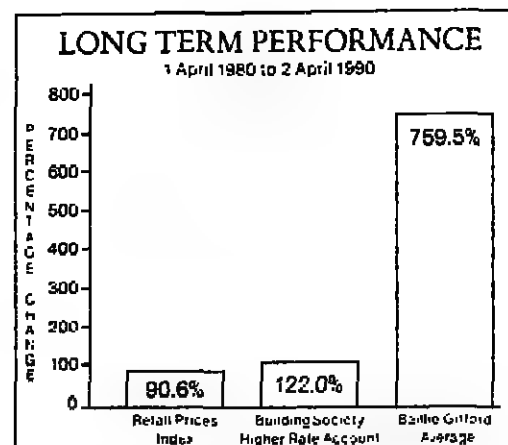
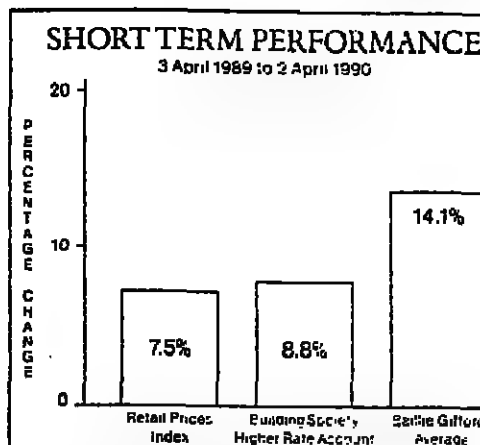
From Mr Alfred Cassell
Sir, Your article in *The Times* (March 24) advised purchasing gilt stock via the National Savings 'Stock Register'. I should be grateful if you would kindly provide the address of the register.
Yours faithfully,
ALFRED CASSELL,
7 Little Gaddenden,
Berkeley Road,
Hertfordshire.

The Department of National Savings says the best way to purchase gilt stock is by obtaining an application form from your local Post Office.

Readers' letters for publication are welcomed but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice.

Baillie Gifford Investment Trusts

THE RESULTS



The Baillie Gifford Investment Trust Savings Scheme enables you to invest small or large sums commission free in the range of Baillie Gifford managed investment trusts. Baillie Gifford have been managing investment trusts since 1909 and we aim to provide good solid long term performance. With over £3.2 billion of clients' money invested we think it's an approach that's worked. To find out more simply complete the coupon.



BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO
INVESTMENT MANAGERS · MEMBER OF IMRO
10 GLENFINLAS STREET · EDINBURGH EH3 6VY
TELEPHONE 031-225 2581 · FAX 031-225 2358 · TELEX 72310 BGCO G

To: Michael Usher, Baillie Gifford & Co, 10 Glenfinlas Street, Edinburgh EH3 6VY. Please send me details of The Baillie Gifford Investment Trust Savings Scheme.

Name (PRINT CAPITAL PLEASE) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

This advertisement has been issued by the six investment trust companies (The Scottish Mortgage & Trust, The Scottish Investment Trust, The Scottish International Investment Trust, The Baillie Gifford Japan Trust, Baillie Gifford Technology and Baillie Gifford Ship Nippon) and has been approved by Baillie Gifford & Co, a Member of IMRO. Baillie Gifford & Co are the Managers and Secretaries of the investment trusts and are Managers of The Baillie Gifford Investment Trust Savings Scheme. The investment trust companies' names and share do not carry out investment business as defined in the Financial Services Act 1986 so they are not subject to the Act. The figures show the percentage change in the average Baillie Gifford Investment Trust share price (total market price with net income reinvested) compared to the Retail Prices Index and the average Building Society Higher Rate Account. Source: Mitrail.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.

THE NEW SCOTTISH WIDOWS 1990/1991 PEP



THE SOONER YOU TAKE OUT A SCOTTISH WIDOWS PEP, THE MORE TAX YOU'RE LIABLE TO SAVE.

All those investors who took out a PEP nice and early last year missed out on one of the most important PEP events of 1990... Scottish Widows' launch in March.

But the early birds had the right idea.

The earlier you invest, the more you can benefit, since the dividend income and capital gains are tax-free.

So, this year consider the double benefit of a whole year's tax-free investment, and Scottish Widows' undoubted investment expertise.

Invest up to £6,000 in our new Personal Equity Plan and all your dividend income and capital gains from this investment will be totally tax-free.

INVESTMENT CHOICE: INCOME OR GROWTH

Our Income Plan invests in sound equities offering above average yields and good prospects for longer term growth.

Our Growth Plan invests in companies which we believe are currently undervalued, thus providing real opportunities for medium to longer term growth.

Obviously, a lump sum of £6,000 maximises your tax-free investment returns. But we're well aware that not everyone may wish to invest as much at one time. So we can accept single amounts of as little as £1,200.

We have also introduced a monthly savings plan which enables you to benefit from the advantages of a Scottish Widows PEP from only £100 a month.

Whichever plan you choose, the first £3,000 in each tax year is invested in a Scottish Widows unit trust, and the balance is directly invested in up to 5 carefully selected UK equities.

AN ENVIABLE PERFORMANCE RECORD

Although our PEP is new we are by no means newcomers to investment management. Scottish Widows has been providing investors with consistently high performance since 1815.

Not only are we top of the 10, 15 and 20 year unit-linked endowment assurance tables, but we also earned the title 'Scottish Unit Trust Group of the Year' in 1987.

£6 BILLION INVESTED IN UK EQUITIES

As the UK's 12th largest investor we manage over £12 billion. Over £6 billion is in UK equities. Over £450 million is in our range of unit trusts.

This means that our investment managers have the experience, and the financial strength, the analytical resources and the expertise to seek the best advantage from investment opportunities on your behalf.

PLUS A 1% DISCOUNT

We're offering a further incentive — a full 1% discount on all applications for lump sums and monthly investment plans received by Tuesday, 15th May 1990.

Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of a PEP may go down as well as up, and therefore the investor may not get back the amount originally invested. Tax assumptions are subject to statutory change and the value of tax relief will depend on the circumstances of the investor.

*Source: Money Management April 1990 Managed Fund Sector Performance.

Telephone 031-655 3555 or send this coupon to Scottish Widows Investment Management Ltd, FREEPOST, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 0NE. Please send me urgently full details of the new Scottish Widows 1990/1991 PEP.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUSTS

Part of the Scottish Widows Investment Management Ltd Group, member of IMRO

PRIMA Bond

13%

net p.a.

EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH INTEREST FOR INVESTMENTS OF £10,000 OR MORE.

Our new Prima Bond is an investment opportunity not to be missed!

Invest £10,000 or more and we'll guarantee you at least 5% above our basic Savings Share rate* until July 1st 1992. Right now that's an exceptional 13% net p.a. (17.33% gross equivalent for basic rate tax payers).

Interest is paid annually on 31st December. For maximum growth, leave your capital and interest to compound over the full term.

You can have access to your money earlier provided you maintain a minimum balance of

£10,000 in the account. Give 90 days notice and you'll incur no penalty whatsoever.

Alternatively you can have immediate access, but lose 90 days interest on the amounts withdrawn.

From July 1st 1992, when the Bond matures, you will have instant access to your full investment without penalty or notice and earn a guaranteed 3% net above our basic Savings Share rate.

Use the FREEPOST coupon to invest right away or call in at any Northern Rock branch.

*The rate may vary.

NORTHERN ROCK
BUILDING SOCIETY

People with your interest at heart

Principal Office: Northern Rock House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL. Telephone: 091-285 7191.

Branches and Agents throughout the U.K. Please consult Yellow Pages. Eligible for investment by Trustees. Member of the Building Societies Association. You may withdraw up to £25,000 by cheque (£500 cash) each day from any Northern Rock branch. Larger amounts by post from Principal Office.

invest by post today!

To Jonathan Gray, Northern Rock Building Society, FREEPOST, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL. I/We enclose cheque for £ made payable to Northern Rock Building Society.

(Minimum £10,000, maximum £250,000) to be invested in the Prima Bond.

Please tick appropriate box.

Interest to be added annually (31st December) to the

Prima Bond ☐ or

paid into any Northern Rock account ☐ or

a bank account ☐

Please confirm the application. MEANWHILE THE INVESTMENT IS TO START EARNING INTEREST FROM THE DAY OF RECEIPT.

Full Name/s _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature/s _____

Date _____



It's True, Jack Daniel's Whiskey Is No Better Today Than When Jack Daniel Created It.

In 1866, Jack Daniel created the world's first Tennessee sippin' whiskey.

Then, for over 120 years, nobody did anything to improve it. Today's Jack Daniel's has the same rare taste as when Mr. Jack first made it. Which means it's still mellowed drop by drop. That's the way you've always liked it. So, we promise, we're still not planning any improvements.



SMOOTH SIPPIN' TENNESSEE WHISKEY

If you'd like to know more about our unique whiskey, write to us for a free booklet at the Jack Daniel's Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee, USA.

- DRINK: THE CHOICE OF APRIL WINES
- COOK: PICK OF THE PALM TREE FRUITS
- EATING OUT: A TASTE OF BURMA
- SHOPPING: BEST OF THE EASTER EGGS

THE TIMES

REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY APRIL 7 1990

At the desert court of Sultan Qaboos

Once a year the Sultan of Oman leaves his palace to dispense instant government at tribal gatherings in his desert kingdom. This year Brian James went with him

Gathering his robes about him, a tribal elder leaned forward until his headrest almost touched that of his sovereign. The low murmur of voices, the colour of the men's robes and the mats on which they squatted, the stillness of the desert stretching to every horizon, gave the scene an almost biblical texture. Except for the machine guns at their feet, and the nature of the elder's spoken petition.

Could the ruler, spake the elder, do anything about those ministry fools who kept failing him in his driving test. After all, out here amid all this space was it likely he would have an accident? His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said murmured his regrets: "Out here you would be safe. But then you would drive to a city and probably kill someone. You must go away and practise."

The elder shrugged and moved away. His place was taken by another, seeking, perhaps, a larger school for his village. Or an improvement to his region's telephone reception. Or a link to the motorway. Or air tickets to take an ailing wife to Harley Street. Or a new car in keeping with his dignity as the head of a tribe.

Each was accorded equal grave attention, and often an equally swift decision. For when the Sultan of Oman goes on his annual journey to face his people (or, more essentially, their unhesitating demands), he is touring a form of government curiously unafraid to present itself for judgement. That is why ranged behind him, in unassuming robes, are 17 members of his cabinet: let there be a complaint about a civil servant grown insolent in office, or a pension still unpaid, and the responsible minister is beckoned forward to answer.

For two weeks each year, the travelling majlis tours the deepest interior of this desert kingdom, set on the south-east corner of the Arabian peninsula. It has done so for 15 years, since Sultan Qaboos decided that the Arab custom of making petitioners travel for days and wait weeks for an audience at the palace was a waste of time. His and theirs.

For the first time, on this 20th anniversary of his accession to power, it was decided that one foreign newspaper might come to take, an albeit distant, view of the process. He chose *The Times*.

To find the Sultan in these weeks one drives out of his capital, Muscat, into the yellow flatlands broken by conical hills of sand, gravel and rock rising 10,000ft, as though this was where God keeps the raw material for his next great work: here a man knows what it is to be an ant in a builder's yard.

On a great plain is today's majlis. A cluster of sky-blue tents marks its place, and one might have supposed this was just another Bedouin nightstop shimmering up through the haze but for the roadside presence of desert people, some towing camels, others roasting in four-wheel-drive vehicles, waiting patiently for their ruler to come by.

Patience is necessary, for in the Arab way there is no schedule for this or any other day. Meetings start when the most important arrive. But bystanders do not need a programme: there is only one star in this fast-moving procession; the man in the mid-brown robes driving his own Land-Rover. They wave, he smiles, and then he is gone. Unless, that is, something takes his eye.

A year back it was a village devastated by the flash-floods that can come roaring down the wadis after rain on these impermeable hills: Sultan Qaboos called up an army command car and took charge of rescue and repair operations. Miles up the route, hundreds of tribesmen waited for the majlis that never came.

Today, in the desert near Dauka, this congregation is luckier. Without preamble, the Sultan's convoy of Jeeps comes speeding out of the ring of blue tents to the hillock where perhaps 500 elders have gathered. Each gets a handshake and greeting.

Then they sit, and those who have the most urgent things to say have that say, a sort of unofficial rota having been drawn up by consent. They say no one who is determined will be denied a private word, and certainly as the afternoon moves towards its abrupt death at dusk, no one appears to be in a hurry to call



Day of the majlis: Sultan Qaboos, dressed in mid-brown robes and squatting on his haunches amid armed guards, listens to a tribesman's petition. Alongside him, his cabinet ministers. At top, a secretary takes notes

"Any other business?" As the requests and responses drone on dust-devils mark every skyline: some caused by winds swirling as the temperature reaches 38°C, others by the constantly circling patrols of the Sultan's SAS-trained desert troops.

Their firepower is a precaution; we are not far from the Yemeni border where fighting raged for years. The guns, pistols and daggers carried by almost every tribesman are tokens of an enduring willingness to fight for the Sultan's family, as they have done for centuries.

In exchange, they take for granted the right to ask without shame for anything they might need, beginning with justice. If they feel wronged they must prove the charge — or face a fierce summons to the capital to front the Sultan if they have indeed slandered his officials. If they have a need, they must make out a case. There is no embarrassment in asking for something for one's self — more camels, air-conditioning for a house.

Increasingly, only the personal and the trivial are left to be

requested. The basic infrastructure provides for lives of civilized ease; there is little now to ask. For the reality behind this medieval caravan is the startling transformation of Oman in just 20 years, from the most backward of Middle East nations to probably the most advanced.

Sultan Qaboos replaced an old man whose fierce sense of duty to his Islamic nation was expressed in a horrified ban on all western influence. The few people permitted to penetrate Oman before the present Sultan took British help to overthrow his father (Sultan Said bin Taimur, who became the coup's only casualty as, reaching for a pistol at his night table, he shot himself in the foot) have lurid memories of this land as it was before. They recall entry at an airport of two tin huts, before departing (via the 10 miles of paved road which was all Oman then boasted) towards a capital that slammed its doors at dusk.

They remember a country where health was defended by two filthy clinics. Where illiteracy was nearly total, and malnutrition endemic. Where written per-

mission was needed to own a radio, ride a bicycle, or to wear glasses, and was usually denied. And a country from which no Omani was permitted to leave, save on the old Sultan's business.

Driving away from Dauka, watching camels trail each other towards unimaginable destinations that presumably exist out there, one reflects that they are planting the last, romantic footprints of an old life. Today, there is practically no Omani village without a sweet-water well. No Omani fisherman without an outboard motor and a freezer in which to store his catch. No community without its clinic. No child without a teacher, and hope of a university education. No region so remote as to be beyond the reach of paved road, electricity pylon, job opportunity and legal redress.

The infrastructure of present-day Oman is therefore often as improbable as the mirages which shimmer on its interior sands. The miracle has been worked, of course, with money. Oil money. Money spent without restraint by an autocrat applying the single test: "Do we need it? Then let work commence."

But the money has not been spent on frippery, ostentation or glitz. Muscat has one stand of skyscrapers because that is what the computers of its business district demand: the rest of the capital, strung out beside the Gulf waters, is low-rise, pretty and traditional, coloured in all the hues of the sands.

Omani architecture leans heavily on Wren: that is to say P.C. rather than Christopher, for Beau Geste would be instantly at home here, where Arabic peak-arched windows and roof firing-slots are seen as being as appropriate for petrol station as for palace.

The Sultan's eye is everywhere in this. He recently drove past an estate of new homes put up by a relative. "Too close. In a few years they will be a slum. Pull them down." Demolition work began within days, but a money-draft for compensation arrived only a little later.

The lifestyle of Sultan Qaboos is not gross. Educated in England privately, then at Sandhurst (later serving with a British infantry battalion, and in a staff post), he is happy in the company of other soldiers and horses; happier with paintings and music. It was a day of rare extravagance when, in 1985, he lit up every mile of Muscat motorway with 92 million fairy-lights to celebrate 15 years in power.

But that, he explained, was for his people: his own "treat" was to send a jet to fly the London Symphony Orchestra to Muscat to play Mozart in his personal concert hall on his birthday. A compact disc would, of course, have been cheaper, but it is unlikely that the two million Omanis would have begrudged him this mildly excessive outlay.

They live now in a land of no income tax, subsidized utilities, where health and education are provided free, and where fear of the Sultan's sole authority is so little that those who cannot wait for his caravan to come around can, by custom, wait at his palace gate, and hailing him by name, ask for relief.

Again Sultan Qaboos is no soft touch. But the rules are simple: if the petitioner can make his case, the Sultan writes a decision on a loose-leaf page offered by a secretary, signs it, and the remedy must begin before sundown of the following day. That can mean an

overdue payment arriving in cash, or an Omani Air Force helicopter hovering in those milk-chocolate mountains to pick a site for a television signal relay station.

Gazing on Omani society can be unnerving: where are its wars? This is an Islamic country where you may drink, if that is your foolish wish; where women (most still veiled in modesty) are so respected that they can walk late and unaccompanied, and yet so emancipated that some become police constables. The few instances of petty pilfering occur in the cities, and are blamed on Pakistanis or Filipinos (this is as

much realism as racism: migrant workers are the only true poor). So the smart police keep an eye out for dirty cars, and fine the drivers up to £250.

There are no political parties because all the power is in the hands of one man ("advised" betimes by a consultative council of appointees), but nor is there poverty to give dissent a seeds a purchase.

Another jolt: we had left Sultan Qaboos an hour behind us when we passed a man pacing beneath a burning sky, head down like a dawn mushroom seeker, scouring

Continued overleaf



Instant action: the Sultan's decisions must be acted on before sundown

RE-ROOFING? The THERMABOND Alternative

Tiles and slates bonded permanently into correct position.



Thermabond's unique weatherproof foam.

Thermabond Operative applying the process.

Until now the only cure for serious roof problems was to strip off the entire roof and replace all defective felt, nails, tiles and slates. This is a very complex business, but now there is a real alternative which represents much better value for money.

The Thermabond process consists of spraying a layer of foam to the inside of the roof which dries to a rock hard layer bonding all slates and tiles into the correct position. This layer is weather-proof and fire retardant and is the permanent answer to roof problems, guaranteed for 25 years. Because Thermabond operatives work in your loft, there is no inconvenience, no

scaffolding and no mess that is normally associated with re-roofing. The Thermabond process is completed within a significantly less time than re-roofing and can also be applied to flat roofs. The Thermabond process is subject to British Board of Agreement Certificate number 89-2329 indicating the highest possible standards of workmanship and attention to detail.

If your roof needs attention — complete the coupon today. Alternatively,

TEL: 0565 54911

(24 hours) for immediate attention.

THERMABOND LTD

Over Tabley, Cheshire, WA16 0PL.

Now available in Channel Isles, Isle of Man & Ireland.

To: Thermabond Roofing, FREEPOST, Over Tabley, Cheshire, WA16 7BR.

I would like further details of Thermabond Roofing. Domestic ☐ Commercial ☐ Flat Roof ☐

Name

Tel

Address

Postcode

THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN



King of Siam gets his wires crossed

We are into place-dropping this week. We start in Bristol with a nod to Miami, and take in Wood Lane, Southampton, Budapest, Moscow, the Isle of Man and Chiswick. I drove from Southampton to Bristol to appear on beleaguered HTV's new late-night chat show *It's Nearly Saturday*. I enjoyed a reunion with Liz Robertson — just back from touring America with Nureyev in *The King and I*.

She returned with immense affection for the Russians and a gross of stories. On one occasion, in a cold, full theatre, the King of Siam arrived on stage with a poncho round his bare shoulders, clogs on his bare feet, muttering: "Now I am warm," and turned the "Shall We Dance" polka into a clog dance.

In Miami, they were playing the end of Act I when Rudolf barely made the stage in time for his entrance and was immediately distracted. Mrs Anna is subtly advising the king on how to convince the British he is not a barbarian. To each of her suggestions he replies that that is exactly what he had intended. To Mrs Anna's and the audience's confusion, the king's lines were peppered with frantic calls of "Matt — the phone!" to the stage manager in the wings, accompanied by bizarre mimings.

Liz could see Matt giving Nureyev repeated thumbs down. No way was he going to bring a telephone on for Rudolf to conduct a 20th century conversation in 19th century Siam. Eventually the curtains fell and Nureyev sped to his dressing-room. It transpired that in his dash to the stage he had interrupted a long-distance call to

Paris and left the receiver off. He was paying for the call.

The first *It's Nearly Saturday* went smoothly, but my other television experience was not so good. If anyone has a grudge against me, revenge is at hand if they watch BBC2 next Wednesday at 4.30 pm. Emma Freud presides over *Plunder*, a series in which people ransack television archives.

In 1976, a BBC director rang to say he was doing a play about Michael Arlen (played by Alan Badel). There was a two-minute scene in it, a reunion with Noël Coward. "We thought it would be good to have you play Coward," he said. "rather than a proper actor." I had an afternoon to spare, mastered a few of the master's chestnuts ("looking like a heavily doped Chinese illusionist"), presented myself at the television centre, recorded it and left for America. It went out while I was there so I hadn't seen it before.

It is the worst piece of acting ever recorded on videotape. My banana fingers flag their presence at the lens in extravagant parody of Coward's well-known gesture. The voice is strangled, the appearance gross. You have been warned.

However, there are redeeming features in the programme, especially an ironic excerpt from an interview with Norman St John-Stevas, as he then was. He responds to the question: "Did you find it easy nudging a self-willed woman down the right path?" with: "I've got a little will of my own". An inquiry about who learnt more quickly, when he and Mrs Thatcher took French lessons in Camden at the Ministry of Education, elicits

the response: "I don't know, we took them at opposite ends of the corridor. But the Prime Minister is a very fast mover." She is. Four days later he was out of a job.

MY MEN in Moscow, Budapest and the Isle of Man have all come up with tributes which put recent dispatches from Deal to shame. In Moscow, a member of the Congress of People's Deputies was enthusing recently about the pace of change, "especially now we have our women's group". My man thought he was in on the first stirrings of feminism inside the Soviet Union. "We are sending them to classes," said his proud informant. "We were so embarrassed by our wives. They don't know how to eat, which knife, which fork, what to do with a napkin. They don't know how to dress, to dance... the women's group is now making great progress." So much for Russian feminism.

From Budapest, my man reports a curious legacy of Husak. The President had a peculiar passion for bathrooms. All his official buildings are splattered with them. Now that a new and more enlightened bureaucracy is evolving, you cannot walk down those corridors of power without seeing secretaries squatting on bathtubs hammering at their typewriters, which are perched precariously on washbasins.

Victor Spinetti reports from the Isle of Man that the place is overrun by navvies. Signs saying "No soiled clothing" on pub doors proliferate as they do in London, but a new twist is "No boots inside the hotel". You no longer look for a "Vacancies" sign, you count the boots



ON the steps and know instantly if the place is full.

ON SUNDAY the Arts Educational School held a gala in its new school

theatre in Chiswick in aid of the building fund. The president, Dame Alicia Markova, opened the dance proceedings and Jane Seymour the drama excerpts. I brought on the musicals. Jane started her training at the Arts as a dancer before deciding that acting was for her.

As 125 children, from tots to teenagers, danced on and off the stage in the first four minutes, she recalled a similar occasion when she and her colleagues were on show and could not afford costumes. "We ransacked the downstairs curtains and turned them into long skirts." I should have asked who designed her spectacular flame-coloured dress — it certainly wasn't made from the downstairs curtains.

FINALLY, back to Southampton to start previewing *Same Old Moon* at the Nuffield Theatre. I have picked up a happy piece of local history. Southampton was the scene of one of the war's remarkable mini-dramas. On June 2, 1944, Churchill was there in his personal train, determined to accompany the invasion forces on D-Day (June 6).

For safety reasons, Eisenhower and the service chiefs were equally determined to prevent him. They played a desperate card. That evening, Churchill received a message from George VI saying that if it was right for the Prime Minister to take part in the invasion, then he himself had an even stronger claim as head of all three fighting services. Churchill gave way.

PETER McKAY

If I were...

I would try to be pictured dancing with the Princess of Wales. It is not that I need to pick up votes among the nation's dancers or monarchists. Rather it might suggest that my public appearances are not wholly restricted to political events or entertainments. Labour leaders have long had a problem with social occasions. I must not allow supporters to believe I have been seduced by the London rich. Harold Wilson enjoyed brandy and Havana cigars and sitting up late chatting in a dinner jacket. But he took care that he was photographed with pints of beer and a pipe. Roy Hattersley tells me I am even more cautious than Wilson in my social life and my apparent edginess outside Labour circles is worrying to those



... Neil Kinnock

who have no clear idea of my personality or fitness for high office. I must mix with the enemies of Labour. I shall accept more invitations to West End first nights. If invited I shall not hesitate to instruct Eton College of Labour's plans for education. I must also reach out to the editors of Tory papers. Back in the 1960s, Harold was guest of honour at the fiftieth anniversary banquet of the *Sunday Express*. He gave a splendid after-dinner speech mocking the overwhelmingly Tory audience with wit and grace. They laughed and pounded their tables throughout.

I, too, am a witty man. After the way I stood up to Militant, I can also claim to be a brave man. Yet people still say I am one-dimensional. Whatever disagreements I have with Tory Party views, I do not feel personal animus against Tory voters. The same goes for newspaper editors.

Perhaps it is time I made myself known to the City and the Bar and was photographed with the Royal Family. Few Labour voters seek the abolition of the monarchy. Indeed, older ones like their leaders to get on with the Queen.

Our rickety old political system works largely because we believe that when one party defeats another, life goes on much as before. The polls suggest I stand a good chance of becoming Prime Minister. Tory voters are having to face this idea for the first time in years. It would do no harm to show I can live with them.



Drop anchor here even if you don't own a boat.

Idyllic Spanish ports like this one are great places to bring your own boat. They are also great places to bring yourself.

Because they offer luxurious accommodation, a sophisticated night life, shops, cafes, excellent restaurants — and every other facility under the sun.

They also offer virtually every water sport on or under the waves. From wind-surfing to snorkelling. From catamaran sailing to deep-sea fishing. From water skiing to parasailing.

And wherever you are, you're never far from the beaches of pure white sand or secluded coves.

In all there are 282 ports in Spain which are perfect for water sports.

But then Spain always did spoil one for choice.

Spain. Everything under the sun.

With so much to do afloat and ashore you'll hardly have time to relax on the beach.



For further information please contact your travel agent
The Spanish Tourist Office, 57 St. James's Street
London SW1A 1LD (Tel: 0800 181818) (Friesel: 3442)
For replies please send legible address, label

The Girl Guides Association is shortly to announce major changes. The result of five years' planning, the new initiatives will take the movement into the 21st century.

Later this month the first new uniform since the movement was founded in 1910 will be revealed. For the past three years, designer Jeff Banks has given his services free to rework the clothes for Brownies, Guides, Rangers and the adult officers, who form such an important part of the movement. For the first time, trousers will be an option.

It is hoped the fresh image created by the new uniforms will help to recruit more adults. The old-fashioned styles which made them look like policewomen or traffic wardens have acted as a disincentive in recent years. Few women have enough time to run a Guide unit single-handed, and the association aims to find at least two assistants for every principal, each prepared to give a little time rather than the major dedication which was formerly required.

Another change is the handbook. Once entitled *Policy, Organisation and Rules*, at the end of May it will be replaced by *The Guiding Manual*.

"The aim," says June Paterson-Brown, the chief commissioner, "is to reduce the regulations. In the past, Guides tended to go to the rule book to see if they were permitted to do something. We have been restricting our members far too much."

Strict rules were once important. "When the Girl

New look at Guides

For the first time since 1910, the Guides are to have a fresh image, says Geraldine Ranson

Guides Association started, girls couldn't speak without being spoken to," the commissioner explains. "That is why they wanted to join the Scouts and go to camp and have fun like the boys. However, they had to be seen to be protected and had to get their parents' permission to join."

The girls had to be obedient to have the chance of marriage, an important consideration in 1910. Now the association wants to make it easier for members to participate in what they want to do rather than restrict them to working for their badges, as in the past. They can pursue almost every outdoor activity, except hang-gliding, although research carried out in 1987 showed that camping and cooking over a wood fire remain favourite activities.

Today the association has difficulty in finding good community service projects

for the 733,000 Guides. Calling at people's houses is unsafe. There is now no bot-a-job and even getting to and from meetings has to be supervised carefully.

With a maximum of 36 girls to a unit, the relationship between the Guide and her charges is close. The girls talk in a group and train each other, while the leader is there with special knowledge to help and direct them. Discussions can cover subjects such as sex before marriage, contraception and Aids. If the Guide prefers not to take part, an adviser from outside can be provided. Dr Paterson-Brown says: "We are trying to overcome leaders saying 'Our girls are not like that'."

Although three Northern-berland schoolgirls have recently been accepted into the Scouts, Patricia Lawrence, public relations adviser to the association, says: "Girls still need space with their own sex to develop confidence, to participate fully in a male-dominated society."

While the new manual will allow Guides to decide what to do at meetings, they will also be allowed to choose what they will wear from the new mix-and-match uniform. Modern women, the association believes, have reached full self-determination.

Rather surprisingly, for an officer in an organization pledged to the service of God, the Queen and to helping others, Mrs Lawrence adds: "We do try to encourage women to promote themselves." The Guides still have a mission but theirs is the gentle face of feminism.

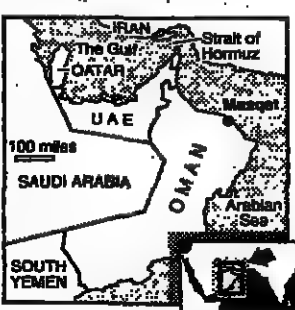
Making a desert bloom

Continued from previous page for litter. Tidy cities, yes. But we were still nearly 100 miles from a town. This is also a society that has been made to care for its surroundings. Millions of flowering shrubs and trees are automatically watered three times daily with recycled effluent.

In mortal danger of describing paradise, I caution here that Oman seems simply the best-organized country I have visited. The shape of the one warning cloud was defined out there in Duka by Sultan Qaboos in his wrap-up words, as his hunkered audience was preparing to stretch its legs.

Omanis, he said, must be prepared to "accept those jobs now being done by expatriates". Accept? Surely the whole point of the past five-year plan had been "Omanization", the determined replacement of the chiefs in the armed forces, the heads of government departments and senior positions in commercial houses of the predominant Britons and other Europeans by his own people. Accept? Surely bright Omanis would be jumping to replace expatriates in jobs.

That depends on which expatriates and which jobs. Said one Masqat hotelier: "I can get Omanis into this industry — provided I start them as managers. The idea of going to catering school to learn how to wait on table appeals them." A German engineer said: "An Omani pick up a shovel? Are you joking?"



You couldn't even get them to pick up a tape and measure the hole the Indians were digging. But if you asked them to price the job...

That gets close to it. It is not that Omanis are lazy, rather that they have a heightened sense of their own value, a sharper awareness of a trading tradition of ancient provenance. Sultan Qaboos is partly responsible for this, too. The education he made available to all includes sessions on Oman's 3,000-year heritage as an exploring, trading nation, with voyages to China, India and Persia: a colonial power, with possessions in Africa and the Indian sub-continent. This vision of their land's importance before it slipped through a crack in history's pavement was as heady as persuading the spivs at the Spanish Steps, or the Vespa-louts on the Via Veneto, that they inherit the glory that was Rome.

With the oil reserves not infinite, Oman has to replace those revenues with light industries, agriculture and fisheries. The students soon to graduate from the first intake into Masqat's superb new university clearly see roles for themselves in all this. But "hands-on"? They shuddered: a door marked with their name leading to an air-conditioned office was rather more what most have in mind.

Two years ago, when all visitors needed an Omani sponsor, just 2,000 tourists came. The plan now is for 60,000 tourists a year by 1995 to visit the stunning beaches and rebuilt desert fortresses. Drunks and the indecent will be dealt with very simply: the agent who brought them will never be invited back, thus guaranteeing that Oman gets only the style of guests it feels it deserves.

But someone must be ready to serve this elite. And that spirit of robust independence which makes Omanis unafraid to wait at their Sultan's door to exercise their right for a sharp word, does not make them anxious to wait on the tables of his visitors.

Sultan Qaboos, a man endlessly generous amid the elders, may yet have to pass among his younger people handing out not gifts, but the odd admonitory clout. Or send a generation, that has been given in such plenty what its fathers never had at all, out walking the sands surrounding where we see him sitting. Oman's burning stretches are profoundly capable of making all men feel humble.

A CHILDHOOD: NORMAN WILLIS

'I suppose we judged our social scale to some extent on whether the wife went out to work'

Norman Willis was well into his teens before he realized, with something of a shock, that in the comic interpretation of schoolboy history he was a "townie". Brought up, like everybody else in the Thirties and Forties, on comics, it simply had not occurred to him that it was boys like himself who were the natural enemies of the public school heroes of fiction with whom he had been encouraged to identify.

The realization seems to have been rather than confused or embittered him — just something else that a boy from his background did not and could not know about, like music or poetry.

He is now the general secretary of the TUC, having, largely through the Transport and General Workers' Union, had his share of good fortune, and the lack of fair opportunities for others without his luck still gives him "a sense of outrage".

He was born in Hayes, Middlesex, in 1933, and brought up in nearby Ashford, about half a mile from where he now lives. The youngest of five, his father "was a hairdresser's assistant with a penchant for organizing for the union. He finally fixed himself up with a radical barber just before the war started."

"I think they used to do more discussions than shaves. But they were bombed out with practically the first bomb to hit west London, and he was taken on as a cook, carpenter and labourer with the Ordnance Department," he says.

His mother, who worked in the canteen at a laundry when he was growing up (canteen and laundry staff are traditionally the lowest paid), was also politically involved, and possibly the more ambitious of the two parents. It used to be said that he went to work for the TUC as a wooden horse for Jack Jones, the transport union leader. But the truth was that his mother became aware of the job vacancy through the *Traveller* and made him promise to apply. She died just before he took up the job.

"I wasn't aware of being particularly deprived. No one had very much then and we weren't poverty stricken. But I can remember the anxiety when the gas man was due to come, because we had a coin box which was geared up to the next unit so there was always some money to come back and my mother would rely on that. I wrote a poem about it actually." (He is also now vice-president of the Poetry Society.)

"I suppose we judged our social scale to some extent on whether the wife went out to work. Being a busman was a good job, regular and quite well paid, and I remember being very impressed when the son of one of the policemen who lived across the road told me that they had a cooked tea. I was about eight, and that would be the first time I'd known anyone who had a cooked tea. It was sad on toast."

"It wasn't abject poverty, but it was pretty well standard hard-up. Once I was sent to the shops with a pound note and I lost it. It wasn't easy to lose a pound note in those days. My mother was very upset: 'Just when I'd seen it through to the end of the week,' she said."

"We never had a holiday and I didn't know that people did. The freedom to travel that young people have now is fantastic. In the long holidays I would go to the laundry where my mother worked and throw a few bundles of clothes around."

Labour Party politics and union activities were a central part of his childhood, but not, he thinks, in an over-zealous way. "If my parents had been asked 'Are you your brother's keeper?', they would have replied 'yes'. They believed in society, and I was taught that you didn't just do everything for yourself. It's important to get the balance right. Union affairs and the Labour Party were a natural part of their lives, but they weren't obsessed by it."

One of his earliest memories is of sitting by the Serpentine in Hyde Park with his mother when Neville Chamberlain happened to walk by. "I can remember it now. A woman in a suit coursed to him and I asked my mother why she was doing that."

His father was the treasurer for the Feltham Trades Council and his mother was a delegate and they would do the trades council accounts on the kitchen table. "It was a ritual. My mother would

not encourage to consider university and left at 16.

"Clearly I could have done the work at university because eventually I did. But no one suggested staying into the sixth form. No one I knew had been to university. I used to think until quite late on, until just before I went to Ruskin in fact, that at university you did all the things you'd done at school, only to a higher level. I thought I'd have to do arithmetic and French because no one had told me I wouldn't."

His first job was in a greenhouse soaking plants in tobacco solution which was very boring. As it happens, it gave him a taste of how unreasonable employers could be when he was told that the boys were not allowed to listen to the radio while they worked. It wouldn't have hurt the boss to let them listen, and it would have made the day go twice as quickly, he reasoned. But it was not allowed. From there he became an office boy at the Transport and General Workers' Union, his parents' trade union, which pleased them enormously. Then at 18 he was called up for his National Service.

"I was quite excited at going into the Army because I'd never been anywhere before. I remember I kept getting a map out and looking at my tickets, things like that. At that time the only place I'd been at all was to stay with my married

sister somewhere in Kent, which seemed a very long way to me. I remember the train went through a long tunnel and when it came out at the other side there were sheep in the field. I'd never seen sheep in a field before."

As it happens "Signalman Willis N.D. 22480142" hated the Army, always aware that he was reliant upon the goodwill of others rather than a real system of justice. "The best job I had was cleaning the drains because no one supervised you too closely when you were doing that. In the end I made it to the quartermaster's office."

Back at Transport House he became a clerk in the TGWU education department, arranging courses for London busmen. He also took some courses and at 22 his life changed when he went up to Ruskin College, Oxford, to read for a diploma in philosophy and political science. Two years later he transferred to Oriel, graduating in 1959 with a "goodish second".

Oxford was a complete eye-opener for him, not least seeing "a Greek god get out of a taxi carrying a squash racket while the college porter struggled with two large suitcases".

He thought Ruskin was terrific. "It was the first time I'd been taken seriously by people of quite high calibre. Of course 1956 was the time of Hungary and Suez so there was quite a lot going on."

There were changes of routine, too. "I remember a northern friend of mine saying how great it was that you could go to bed in the afternoon if you felt like it. That was very strange for us because we'd always worked. The other side to that was, of course, that you'd find yourself sitting doing an essay on a Saturday night." At first he missed the feeling of having the weekend off.

When he moved to Oriel ("specializing in monetary and fiscal economics out



Union poet: Willis's parents believed in society and they taught him that you did not do everything for yourself

of loyalty to the Labour movement instead of doing something I was good at") he remained detached from the university, choosing not to live in college. He regrets that now, and thinks he was probably unnecessarily uneasy. All the same he never got used to the way some ex-public schoolboys in those days referred to each other by their surnames.

He made some good friends then, becoming aware of music by talking to a boy from a school where they put a great emphasis on music.

"It was nothing precious to him but he

got a lot out of it. And I've now met people who are soaked in it and it gives them an enormous amount of totally engrossing pleasure. But unless you know about these things you don't know whether you would have liked them or not. And I didn't know."

(He now goes occasionally to opera which he enjoys although he admits he does find the plots a little hard to take.)

By his final year at Oriel he was anxious to get back to work and having done particularly well in the paper on philosophy he returned to Transport

House as research assistant to Frank Cousins — a first step on the ladder.

Now with two grown children (his wife Maureen was once secretary to Neil Kinnock) he enjoys writing poetry, painting and reading.

"I'd like people to be able to take opportunities which they genuinely feel are there, and not to look out at the world with so much of a 'here there are dragons' attitude. I always remember reading what a head of Harvard once said: 'If you think education is expensive, try doing without it.'"

A pub needs taste, not only in its beer

STEPHEN Bayley says he learnt a great deal about art and life in Liverpool pubs. They were, according to the former head of London's Design Museum, second only to those in Glasgow in their ability to excite so many senses in one place at one time. That was 20 years ago.

For some reason the design of leisure facilities never really grew up. After the Victorians, who did it best, it reached its nadir in the Fifties and Sixties. But now, where nostalgia and sentimentality do not lurk, designers tend to opt for escapism. There is an obvious correlation between good food and drink and an environment to produce atmosphere. The danger, of course, lies in the fact that taste changes so rapidly. As Mr Bayley says, with only a modicum of exaggeration, of the area of South London where he now lives, "there are more tapas bars than there are in Spain".

Considering how much modern pub and restaurant design is buried in re-pro-Victorian rat, or themed in outrageous glass-fibre kitsch, the first annual awards for pub and restaurant interiors, announced this week, was a welcome event. Mr Bayley, one of the judges, said that too many of the entries were over-complicated and fussy for his clean, modernist eye, reflecting that many designers were living in the past. "Designers have been petrified in recent decades," he said. "There is a lack of conviction in the age in which we live."

Generally, people were

much more critical of their cars, in which they spent up to a quarter of their waking lives, but cars demonstrated the best of contemporary standards. We should expect more from the design of places in which we spend our leisure hours, he said.

Five schemes were short-listed, with design and build contractors, Dean & Bows, declared the winner for the Duke of Cambridge pub in Battersea, South London.

The pub was stripped of its false ceiling over the bars to reveal cut-mirrored panels more in keeping with the 1860's glass and timber screen and original Victorian panelling. Outside, a cast iron and glass canopy extends some 18ft to the pavement, where the area was repaved with bricks, railings and planting, making it a popular outdoor location on fine evenings.

Second was Henry's Cafe Bar, Birmingham, by Inn Design Services. It has an art and crafts theme: a polished hardwood service bar with marquetry inserts and leaded lights. Third was Stephen Bull's restaurant, Marylebone, making the most of its eccentric plan with lighting and mirrors; fourth was Confucius Restaurant, Wimbledon, consisting of a geometric pattern of pavilions which give diners glimpses of each other between columns and alcoves. Fifth was Café Qui, Glasgow, styled in the manner of the famous Gilli Café in Florence, in white and green marble mahogany.

Charles Knevitt

In the mood for a change

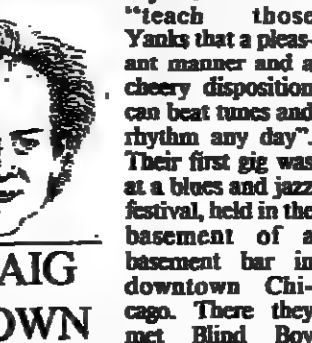
THERE has been outcry in blues circles recently over the weekly BBC2 jazz and blues revival series, *Boogie On Down*, presented by Ian Boogie Live from the Sussex Downs. The series has featured important singers, with special on blues artists such as Blind Lemon Jefferson, Deaf Strawberry Peterson and Slightly Peaky Orange Marmoset. There has been acclaim, too, for the way in which the producers managed to persuade Lemon, Strawberry and Orange to get together in a jam. But many have complained that the series has ignored the achievements of arguably the greatest Old Time blues artists of the century.

Polly-Sighted Kiwi-Fruit Fetherstonehaugh is unique among jazz and blues artists in that, from a very early age, he had absolutely no sense of rhythm. At the age of 18, his reinterpretations of classic swing tunes, among them *Ooh Pooah Poo Doo Pah Ding Bang Thud* and *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company W* earned him recognition as one of the most persistently swingless youngsters on the jazz circuit. By the age of 20 this qualification had gained him an invitation to play for the young Duke of Windsor at Windsor Castle.

Distressed by the grammatical errors that popped up with such frequency in American jazz, and upset by a certain coarseness of tone, Queen Mary held firmly to the view that, if jazz was to be played at all, then it should at least be played by people from good backgrounds who could sing the King's English. Believing that Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Earl Hines were all refugees from the lower reaches of the British aristocracy, she was said to have experienced some disappointment upon first meeting them. But with Fetherstonehaugh



she was far from displeased. Sifting through the song-sheets before each dance, Queen Mary would take her quill to any lyrics that betrayed a slovenly acquaintance with Fowler's *Modern English Usage*. Tiger Rag became *Tiger Cloth*, while *I Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing* was more suitably rendered as *Quite Honestly, It Does Not Mean An Awful Lot If It Has Yet To Receive A Swing-Seat*, the latter fitting Kiwi-Fruit's unique rhythms far more snugly. The smart parties of the 1930s took readily to Kiwi-Fruit's more refined jazz renditions. The British upper classes had long prized a certain stiffness of movement in their young, and this, combined with a disinclination to converse with the opposite sex, made Kiwi-Fruit's stilted synecopations on dance numbers such as *I Love To Talk About the Weather* and *Salsing My Baby Bye-Bye* an instant success. An entire roomful of party-goers would enjoy shaking hands with each other all evening to *Let's All Do The Handshake*, while the more romantic could let their hair down to *Actually, I Am*



CRAIG BROWN

Jones and Fats Waller. "Remind me again," said Kiwi-Fruit. "Which of you is which?" This concert was Kiwi-Fruit's first introduction to real American blues, and he never looked back. Listening to Howlin' Peter's rendition of *My Mama's Gone Dried*, *My Papa's Bin Drinkin' Agin*, *My Gramma's on Fire* and *There's Nuthin' On The TV*, followed by Waitin' Jack's piercing lament, *Nobody Wants To Kiss You When You're Bin Swallowin' Gold*

fish All Night, Kiwi-Fruit decided there and then to revive the English upper-class blues tradition of solid understatement backed with extraordinary lack of rhythm. Arming himself with a couple of bottles of Tizer, he sat up all night to write those two classics of English upper-class blues, *I'm So Blue I Can't Finish My Greens* and *Since You've Been Gone I've Been A Little Put Out, But I'm Managing to Cope*.

The next night he sang as he had never sung before, sometimes even hitting the floor with his shoe at roughly the same time as the beat. Rounding his session off with a few choruses of *I've Got Rhythm*, *I've Got Music*, *I've Got Rhythm*, *Who Could Ask For Much Else All Things Considered*, he rushed backstage to see how the set had gone down with some of the great names of jazz. "Excuse me, are you Dizzy?" he asked a gottelman holding a trumpet. "So maybe I've had a drink, what's it with you?" came the reply, and so he made his excuses.

He began to realize the toll that singing the blues places on any musician. The life of the American bluesman appeared to be a daily round of car-crashes and drug overdoses. Once, the great Blind Pee-Wee Cannonball Jelly-Roll Leadbelly was suffering from a mild stomach complaint and was consequently unable to go out and crash his car, so he asked Fetherstonehaugh to do it for him. Alas, Fetherstonehaugh was unused to crashing cars, and ended up merely parking it on a double yellow line. Leadbelly was furious, declaring that it would look terrible in any posthumous biography. This unpleasantness made poor Kiwi-Fruit so unhappy that he wrote one final song, *Too Cua Up to Sing The Blues*, before retiring forever. A full tribute remains long overdue.

You'll speak French, Spanish, German or Italian in 3½ weeks

WE GUARANTEE IT!



Get a warmer response when you travel, and gain respect in business.

NEW — AND ENJOYABLE

Based on Nobel prize winning research about the brain. Accelerated Learning is easy, fast and, above all, genuinely enjoyable.

Developed with top U.K., European and U.S. Universities, Accelerated Learning not only speeds learning but improves long term retention.

It works by stimulating both the logical left brain and the more powerful creative right brain. You acquire vocabulary from radio plays written in short, easy-to-absorb sentences, while simultaneously looking at special vivid and memorable illustrations.

Some sections add a relaxing musical background, to add yet another memorable link.

Active involvement in enjoyable games and activities builds your fluency. It's a totally new approach, you must try to appreciate.

Consequently we'll offer you a 10 DAY FREE TRIAL of the course of your choice.

66 Makes learning as effective and effortless as possible. 99 Bn Assoc for Comm and Industrial Education

☐ Yes, rush me Free Information **10 DAY FREE TRIAL**

Name _____ Tel _____

Address _____ Post Code _____

ACCELERATED LEARNING FREEPOST Aylesbury Bucks HP22 4BR

OR TEL: 0296 631177 (9-5 WEEKDAYS)

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Forget fare dodging — Parisian commuters spend their time dodging market traders and Bolivian folk bands. Philip Jacobson goes underground

Of mice, men and the Métro



In the deepest tunnels of the Parisian Métro, something stirs in the darkness. It is the *Acheta campestris*, the common field-cricket, chirping away as merrily as in some country meadow. They never see the sun, and what they feed on down there is a mystery.

Discarded scraps of fast food, perhaps, or maybe the fleas that breed furiously in warm, damp crevices and make the life of maintenance workers a misery, colonizing anyone within reach, or the swarms of voracious mosquitoes lurking at ground level to nip ankles through the thickest of socks.

Resident insects apart, the Métro's low levels also host an enormous colony of mice, which thrive despite the attentions of the stray cats roaming the tunnels. A pair of pythons that presumably got loose on someone's journey — though their loss was never reported — lived off a diet of mouse for some weeks and were reported to have been in superb condition when recaptured.

So much for the wildlife beneath the streets of Paris; but what about the human factor, the 1.2 million people who use the 293 stations along the 94 miles of Chemin de Fer Métropolitain Métro lines every year? The vast majority might be tempted to laugh loudly and bitterly when they hear tourists singing the Métro's praises as the cleanest, the cheapest and the most efficiently run underground network in the world.

Of course, they are mostly Parisians, to whom *la grotte* — grumbling — comes as naturally as shoving a pregnant woman aside to get at the last seat in the carriage and tramping on toes when they get off. Their experience of the Métro is the miserable two rush hours a day when, in the judgement of one veteran traveller, it is strictly a case of heads down and *sautez-qui-peut*.

As a lively article in *Le Figaro* magazine observed not long ago, the vast majority of regular Métro users think in terms only of

"their" line, "their" station: jammed tight, staring blankly into space, mentally on auto-pilot until the commuter's inner clock announces that they have arrived.

For this class of passenger — among whom your correspondent, working gentleman's hours, is not often to be found — what the tourists treat as a fascinating *tableau vivant* of Paris, for the unbeatable price of just three francs, is often a royal pain in the neck. Take the massive station at Châtelet Les Halles, built under the old market, where several Métro lines intersect and the high-speed RER trains disgorge streams of commuters from the suburbs.

The whole complex sometimes resembles an unruly street market, with merchants from North Africa and, increasingly, the Indian sub-continent, hawking cheap clothing and shoes, jewellery, leatherware and tired-looking fruit and veg *à la serviette* — on the hop, without benefit of the much sought-after licences issued by the Réseau Autonome de Transports de Paris, which runs the capital's underground and bus services.

Whatever the entertainment value of watching one of these illicit traders cram three dozen jackets

into an innocent-looking suitcase in 10 seconds flat when a RATP inspector is spotted, there is a growing feeling among commuters that with some 1,500 such *camelots* (hawkers) now working the Métro, enough is quite enough.

The same applies to those whom the RATP classifies as "lacking permanent domicile", a sub-category of the breed sometimes romanticized (by outsiders) as the traditional *vinous clochard*, but today including the homeless, the jobless and the slightly deranged. No great nuisance when they are dossing down on the warmer platforms, their begging has become an increasing irritant: the courteous request for a couple of francs for a *coupe* of heavy red is flat giving way to brusque demands for travellers to put a

hand in their pocket — quite possibly followed by a mouthful of abuse for those who decline.

Métro passengers must also put up with an ever-expanding tribe of itinerant musicians, one guitarist often stepping into the carriage as another steps out. While many Parisians are ready to hand over a coin from time to time — small price for a Bolivian folk group whose haunting melodies often make my journey to work more pleasant — continuous serenades of uneven quality can get on the nerves, particularly when the less talented use portable amplifiers to cover up musical deficiencies.

On the platforms, where full-scale sound systems are more easily deployed, the noise can sometimes be overwhelming. One thinks of the six-piece Afro-Jazz combo that rode the rails on the RER platforms at Châtelet Les Halles, often before a crowd spilling back up stairs to connecting lines. No real harm done, granted, but commuters slogging home after a hard day's work can be excused for the occasional moment of exasperation.

To the RATP's credit, it is not attempting to banish the subterranean troubadours altogether. Instead, the authorities have requested that they avoid crowded trains and platforms and restrict themselves to two amplifiers of no less than 10 watts apiece. In the established French tradition, the musicians instantly formed an organization to fight for "the sacred liberty of self-expression": predictably, they were supported by France's publicity-obsessed Minister of Culture, Jack Lang, who is thought to use the Métro daily.

And so to the safety of the travelling public, which, admiring visitors may be interested to learn, is a subject of the same absorbing interest to Parisians as to users of the New York subway and the London Underground. Despite statistics showing that last year, assaults, muggings and other aggressions had fallen to around two thirds of the 1985 level, there is a widespread belief, particularly among women, that travelling on



Underground sales: there is a growing feeling among commuters that, with 1,500 illicit hawkers working the Métro, enough is enough

the Métro has become considerably more risky, even downright dangerous (*Le Figaro* estimates that the true number of attacks on passengers is three, maybe four, times higher than the official figure).

When the Métro's new director, Christian Blanc, took over, he made it clear that fighting crime would be a prime objective. To this end, the first agents of a new security force, the Groupe d'Intervention et de Protection des Réseaux (GIPR), are now parading the network in their distinctive — some might say distinctly odd — black and white leather jumpsuits.

According to the RATP's publicity machine, all are physical paragons, expertly trained in the martial arts and capable of springing 100 yards in less than 13 seconds (but were they tested in authentic Métro crowd con-

ditions, where every broil is an offensive weapon and hairy young tourists deploy lethal rucksacks?). They must also pass a psychological test to ensure that their CS gas grenades and Japanese-style fighting sticks are used only in the last resort.

Just as well, to judge from a late-night incident at Nation station not long ago, when a unit of the Métro's regular security police suddenly came face to face with a group of armed men in hoods. By good fortune, the latter identified themselves as part of an entirely different force's "anti-tag" squad — charged with hunting down graffiti spraymen — before any damage was done (to complicate matters, several hundred

plain-clothes RATP agents, most of them armed, also circulate around the network).

Readers planning a visit to Paris may care to know that Charles de Gaulle-Etoile (serving the Arc de Triomphe) and Opera stations have the worst record for pickpocketing and thefts from handbags, while Strasbourg-Saint-Denis and Nation are two blackspots for assaults. It is no coincidence that both are on Line Nine, the "crack track", where, drug dealers ply their trade so openly that clients can make an appointment to meet them aboard a train at a given station, strike a bargain *en route* to the port and collect the goods further on down the line.

Much of Line Nine's violence occurs when dealers fall out, but ordinary passengers would be unwise to bank on immunity. And if they do get in trouble, RATP

security agents warn, do not expect the average French policeman to intervene. Arabic and Portuguese men in their fifties have the best record for coming to the aid of other travellers.

Still, finishing on a more cheerful note, what other underground system can hold a candle to the wonderful range of names given to Métro stations? From a score of Saints to three scores, Generals, Marshals and Admirals: from writers and artists to scientists and engineers: from George V to Garibaldi.

My own favourite remains Parnassus, after Baron Antoine Augustin Parnassier, 1737-1813. He was the agriculturist who, after a terrible famine, persuaded Louis XVI to permit the introduction of the potato into France. As if his own station was insufficient, the Baron also lives on in menus as *potimmes Parnassier*.

MUSEUMS

A fresher future

The end of ILEA means a new beginning for two of London's museums, reports Simon Tait



Reviving the Horniman: David Boston, the director

The Inner London Education Authority's demise last weekend means more than the shift of responsibility for London's schools: two of the city's best loved museums, the Geffrye in Hackney and the Horniman in Forest Hill, also undergo a sea change.

They emerge into adulthood with independent status and, on Monday and Tuesday respectively, will parade their new trustees and ambitious plans for the future.

For the Geffrye Museum it will bring the opportunity to replace the first floor of the almshouses, removed when it became the museum in 1914 "for reasons of hygiene", says the director, David Rodgers. Since the schoolchildren and apprentices of London's East End, for whose instruction the museum was founded, were not frequent visitors, it was considered necessary to double the height of the galleries so that the air circulated more quickly. Mr Rodgers needs to find £200,000 to reinstate the first floor for offices, forcing the ground floor rooms for more gallery space.

The two museums were set up as London-wide educational museums, the Geffrye in the 14 almshouses built in 1715 at the bequest of Sir Robert Geffrye, a former Lord Mayor of London, and the Horniman in its purpose-built art nouveau building.

Both museums came under the bureaucracies and funding of the London County Council, then the GLC, and the prolix tribulations began with the GLC's predecessor, the London County Council. Should the national museums take them on? They went to the ILEA in the end, only to find themselves, two years later, in the same fix. Perhaps English Heritage should take them on, or the London boroughs?

The Geffrye was deep in discussion with the Museum of London when the decision was finally made to give it independence, with a grant

from the Office of Arts and Libraries. "It makes us more flexible, and more responsible — apart from anything else, we will have £750,000 next year compared with £80,000 this year, but we are aware that standards have to be maintained with that," Mr Rodgers says.

The Geffrye was founded as a museum to instruct the craftsmen and traditional furniture makers of the area, and to provide an educational resource for local schools. Since 1935 the rooms have been period recreations, moving chronologically from left to right from the Elizabethan Room, through Stuart, William and Mary, Queen Anne, Georgian, Victorian and 1930s rooms.

This week the exhibition area at the end of the series of almshouses-containers will be given over to an exhibition about the 1950s, which will eventually become the essence of a permanent new gallery. The Regency Room will be refurbished, and will show to better effect the cabinet of curiosities of the 18th-century diarist John Evelyn, acquired for the museum by Mr Rodgers's predecessor, the late Jeffrey Daniels, who stocked it by following the record of contents left by Evelyn.

Mr Rodgers hopes to appoint a housekeeper, who will clean each room using the materials of the day. There will also be a gardener doing much the same in the gardens. Frederick Horniman was a tea magnate who liked to visit the sources of his wealth, and

COLLECTING Dressing up

A SMALL survival from a more elegant age comes to auction next week from the workshop of a former dressmaker to Queen Mary and other members of the Royal family. Old lace, embroidery, offcuts of rich dress materials and patterns from the Thirties will draw dealers and collectors to Henry Aldridge's sale-room in Devises, Wiltshire.

The owner of the 600-700 lots began her career as a needlewoman with Handley-Seymour, a court dressmaker. "She worked on the gown worn by Queen Mary for her silver wedding anniversary and the robes for the 1937 coronation," says Henry Aldridge, the auctioneer.

There are 40 bundles of fabric, mainly silk and satin, and two boxes of old lace. The fabrics are estimated at between £20-£30 a lot. There is a designer's dummy, some art deco cushions and some of the dressmakers' own clothes estimated at about £100.

Two items will not be auctioned, however — her client book and a signed photograph of Queen Mary. These help set the tone for two other specialist sales, at Christie's, South Kensington, also on Tuesday, and Phillips in Edinburgh, on Friday.

The most desirable items in the first sale are the needlework tools, including two tape measures, one in the form of a

fish and the other modelled on a coronation coach (£100-£150).

There will be a good range of curtains and table linen, including a tablecloth dating from the Crimean War (£200-£300).

A similar mixture is on offer in Edinburgh. "Antique lace is very collectible at the moment, and a lot of it finds its way back to Belgium," said Lisa Mumford, Phillips' specialist in Scotland.

A lot of 18th-century brocades are bought, to be copied or adapted to modern taste. Lace goes into collections or is matched to special clothes. Both houses offer period frocks, and at its summer sale Phillips will have an example by Norman Hartnell from 1930. Made of floor-length ivory satin, it is embroidered with tiny pearls, diamonds and gold thread.

John Shaw

Henry Aldridge & Sons, Broomfield House, Epsom, Surrey (0380 830181). Viewing: Mon 3.30-7pm, Tues 9.30am-5pm. Sale: Tues 10am.

Christie's, South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 8111). Viewing: Mon 3.30-7pm, Tues 9.30am-5pm. Sale: Tues 2pm.

Phillips, 65 George Street, Edinburgh (031 225 2266). Viewing: Mon 3.30-7pm, Tues 9.30am-5pm. Sale: Tues 11am.

SALES GUIDE

EUROPOTS: European ceramics and glass, from a Royal Worcester porcelain rose jar and cover by Ricketts (2400-2600), to a late-17th century Calceolaria Malacca vase (2300-2500). Henry Spence & Sons, 20 The Square, Bedford, Northamptonshire (0777 706833). Viewing: Tues 10am-3pm. Sale: Wed 11am.

CARPET COLLECTION: Eastern rugs and carpets, including a Bakhtiari carpet, 20ft x 11ft, at £3,000-£4,000. Sotheby's, Summers Place, Basingstoke, West Sussex (0400 783833). Viewing: today 9.30am-12.30pm, Mon 9am-10am. Sale: Mon 10am.

ORIENTAL CERAMICS: The Chinese blue and white section has treasures from modernist estimated dishes at £50-£80, to a hexagonal Qing period vase in Ming style (£8,000-£10,000), from an Aberdeenshire house. Phillips, 65 George Street, Edinburgh (031 225 2266). Viewing: Wed and Thurs 9.30am-4.30pm. Sale: Fri 11am.

Edinburgh (031 225 2266). Viewing: Wed and Thurs 9.30am-4.30pm. Sale: Fri 11am.

BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL: Glass and ceramics, including Staffordshire spinkles with iron-red marbling and gilt collars (£150-£250). Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 8111). Viewing: Mon 3.30-7pm, Tues 9.30am-5pm. Sale: Thurs 2pm.

STERLING STUFF: Liberty silver rose bowl set with amethysts, Birmingham 1908 (21,500-£2,000), good Georgian and late Victorian table candlesticks (700-£1,000) and a table centrepiece by Edward & John Barnard, London 1884 (£4,000-£6,000). Bonham's, Montpelier Square, Knightsbridge, London SW7 (01-884 8161). Viewing: Mon 4pm-7pm, Tues 10am-10.30am. Sale: Tues 11am.

CHINESE CELEBRATIONS: Central Asian antiquities discovered by Sir Marc Stein early this century. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (01-623 8525). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6.00pm. Free. Until Aug 27.

LEATHERBACK: The world's largest and heaviest turtle forms centrepieces of a small exhibition. National Museum of Wales, Cardiff (0222 397951). Tues-Sat 10am-5pm. Adult £1, child 50p.

POLLY AND VICE: The art of social satire and criticism.

EXHIBITIONS

seen by 55 artists. Royal Albert Museum, Queen Street, Exeter (0382 255858). Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm. Until May 6.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE: Explorer sheets will help children discover museum gems. Find the answers and win a prize. Scheme runs throughout April. Florence Nightingale Museum, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 (01-820 0374). Tues-Sun 10am-4pm.

Closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday 10am-4pm. Adult £2, child £1.

SPORT '90: Traces progression of sport. Design Museum, Butlers Wharf, London SE1 (01-407 6265). Open daily, except Mon, 11.30am-6.30pm. 22, concessions £1.

MEN OF IRON: Billie Hill Ironworks producing wrought iron. The Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire (0952 453522). Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £4.50, OAP £3.50, student £2.50.

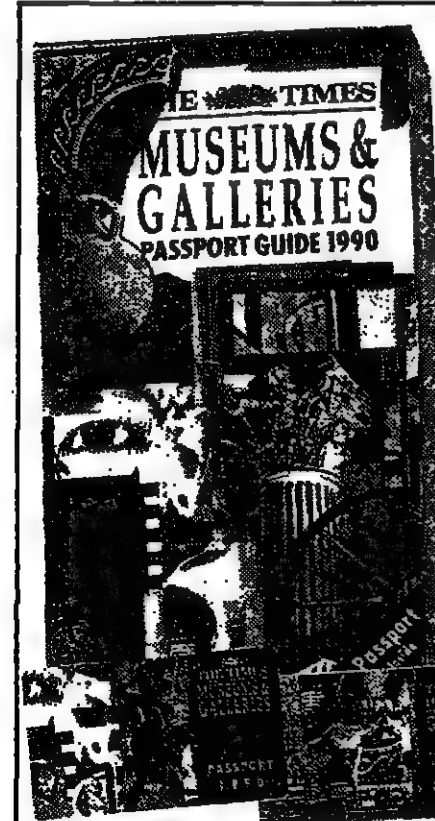
Get into museums... free!

Discover the exciting world of museums and galleries, with The Times Museums Guide and Passport offer. With 456 pages, over 1,500 entries, hundreds of photographs and 23 pages of colour maps, it is essential reference for anyone who would discover the magic of museums.

The Museums Passport won't cost you a penny — but it will save you a fortune. Holders enjoy free or reduced entry to hundreds of museums and galleries, and exciting offers like free posters and big discounts in museum shops.

To receive your guide book and either a junior or adult passport, fill in the coupon below and send with your remittance to: 1990 Museums & Galleries Guide Offer, P.O. Box 92, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 5SZ.

And for an extra free passport, simply fill in the additional coupon.



1990 MUSEUMS GUIDE & PASSPORT ORDER FORM

Name Initials

Address

Postcode

Please send me ☐ guide(s) at £5.95 incl. p.p.

Each guide will include one passport, please indicate either ☐ Adult or ☐ Child.

I enclose cheque/postal order made payable to: Times Newspapers Limited. Value £ (Note)

PLEASE WRITE NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE BACK OF CHEQUE

Debit my Access/Visa card No.

Print Name

Expiry Date

Signature

Date

MUSEUMS PASSPORT REQUEST FORM

Only one passport per coupon. Complete the coupon below. Affix a stamp and send to address as above.

Name Initials

Address

Postcode

Please indicate either ☐ Adult or ☐ Child

AFFIX STAMP HERE NO PASSPORT

Please allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. No claims for loss in transit can be made after 60 days. Offer available in UK and Ireland only. The Times cannot be held responsible for returned goods but will refund the cost of postage.

THE TIMES/PM ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Your chance to pick the winner

Once again, *The Times* and BBC Radio Four's *PM* programme invite readers and listeners to choose a winner of our joint £5,000 Environment Award, from the five finalists whose profiles have been published in this newspaper and broadcast on *PM* every day this week.

Voting will be by post, over the next two weeks, and closes at first post on Friday, April 20. Votes should be sent to: *The Times/PM Environment Award*, 16 Whitefriars Street,

London EC8 2NG, either by using the form printed below or by writing on a postcard. If you use a postcard, please use only the candidate's number and location, thus: 5 Quantocks. Votes are restricted to one per voter and must carry the voter's full name and address.

Below we offer a reminder of the candidates who emerged from the 167 entries: a tree-planting group in the Highlands of Scotland, an oil refinery worker who has created a nature reserve inside

the refinery, a Leeds conservation group fighting to save their valley, schoolchildren in Hull helping to save a colony of frogs, and a Somerset sheep-farmer watching over wildlife as well as sheep.

As in 1989, judging was far from easy. The judges were Sir Crispin Tickell, the British Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and David Astor, chairman of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, aided by Andrew Neal, head of the BBC Natural History Unit, Kath-

leen Carragher, assistant editor of *PM*, and Michael McCarthy, environment correspondent of *The Times*.

Numerous entries showed evidence of ambitious work for the environment, often with stunning results. The Loch Garry Tree Group, for example, was rivalled by Edward Cadden, who, in his

eighties, continues to plant trees on the almost bare island of Harris. Bob Hopkins with his reserve at Conoco

Humphreys from Bottisham in Cambridgeshire, who has created his own marsh and attracted rare marshland birds to it, or the Perring Estate

Community Garden at Bow in east London, where residents in a block of flats have created their own flower garden around an old air-raid shelter.

The work of the Kirkstall Valley Campaign in Leeds could be contrasted with that of the Saughall and Chester Badger Group, a professional campaign to protect badgers living in the path of the new A41-A55 link road around Chester, while the efforts of the children of the Hull Watch group were rivalled, for example, by the 30 children of the

village school at Shute, near Axminster in Devon, who have taken on the role of environmental guardians of their village.

And when it came to farming, Janet White was by no means alone in bringing conservation into her practice of agriculture. Among several impressive entries, for instance, Paul Lysley of Colham Farm, at Castle Combe in Wiltshire, has created his own downland nature reserves.

Many other entries were powerful — the wild bird

sanctuary run by Mrs Zalasiewicz at Greenmount in Lancashire, the huge amount of recording of the plants, ferns and fungi of the Lancaster area done by Len and Pat Livermore, the semi-professional recycling centre set up by Richard Boden, an agricultural management student at Wye College in Kent.

But the judges had to make a choice. We now invite you to make the final choice, and pick a winner.

Michael McCarthy



Trees for the Highlands

THE bare heather hills of the Scottish Highlands form the wrong image of Scotland, because they are a monument to environmental failure, according to Ben Greer and the Loch Garry Tree Group. The group feels they are not natural, but the impoverished result of cutting down the ancient broadleaved forest of birch, alder and rowan which once covered the Grampians, and much of which has disappeared only in the last few hundred years. By extensive planting, Mr Greer and his fellow enthusiasts have shown that broadleaved trees will grow freely at 1,400ft on the shores of Loch Garry in Perthshire, and feel that the Highlands reforested would be an infinitely richer place. They cheerfully plant in all weathers, snow included, and hope their unorthodox vision will grow as strongly as their trees are currently doing.



Ron Greer: reforesting Loch Garry

Wildlife in a refinery

BOB Hopkins, a worker at the Conoco oil refinery outside Immingham on Humber, has created a nature reserve out of a forgotten piece of land inside the refinery boundary. The site, which had lain untouched for 20 years, contains a 15-acre ashwood, Hooton's Covert. Under Mr Hopkins's direction, paths have been cut through the undergrowth, a pond has been dug, observation hides have been erected and a small herd of red deer has been brought in. Children from five local primary schools visit the reserve, which feels as if it is deep in the countryside, to catch glimpses of the deer, pond-dip for tadpoles, and watch birds, flowers and insects. In an area of heavy industry with few countryside amenities, the children find this corner of a chemical plant an incomparable aid to understanding the natural world.



Bob Hopkins: creating a reserve

Green heart of a city

THE Kirkstall Valley Campaign is an action group set up by local people in a suburb of Leeds. Its aim is to fight the threat posed by massive redevelopment to the valley of the River Aire. Although the valley has some derelict parts, it still remains a remarkably green corridor going into the heart of the inner city. There is much wildlife and attractive old buildings there, all of which would have been obliterated in concrete with superstores, thousands of car-parking spaces and a plastic dinosaur park were it not for the campaign. Members of the action group have gone beyond mere opposition and drawn up a comprehensive redevelopment plan of their own, taking account of a wide range of local opinion, which would allow for new housing and industry while preserving the green spaces; they hope it will play a key role in the valley's future.



Linda Raine: Kirkstall campaigner

Frog Patrol at the ready

BRITAIN'S largest colony of common frogs is to be found on Anlaby Common, just outside Hull. Although frogs are increasingly disappearing from their former habitats, and the common is home to up to 90,000 of them, it has no official protection under the wildlife laws. Its only protectors are the children of the Hull group of Watch, the junior wildlife club of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation. On damp spring evenings the children go out on Frog Patrol, armed with torches and buckets, to rescue the frogs as they attempt to get to their spawning grounds on the common. To reach the common they have to cross a busy main road, often getting squashed in the process, by passing cars and lorries. The children rescue the spawn in dry springs, as well as saving hundreds of individual frogs.



Frog Patrol: children of Watch

Farming for protection

JANET White is a shepherd in the Quantock Hills of Somerset and runs a sheep farm, which is remarkably rich in wildlife. It harbours rare birds including nightjars and ravens, more than 200 different varieties of wild flower, many uncommon butterflies and animals such as red deer, pigmy shrews and dormice. Although Mrs White is a working farmer with a heavy load and a modest income, she has refused to intensify her farming methods; the care she shows for her animals is extended to the wildlife she has inherited, all of which is encouraged. Hedges are replanted, bogs are left to the flowers, nest boxes are put up, the use of chemical sprays is ignored, and new habitats are created. Over the past quarter century, while much of the English countryside's wildlife has been ravaged, the part in Mrs White's care has grown richer.



Janet White: farming with nature

VOTING FORM



Please vote for one candidate only, by ticking the appropriate box. Fill in your name, address and telephone number, cut out this form and send it to *The Times/PM Environment Award*, 16 Whitefriars Street, London EC8 2NG. Votes must be received by first post on Friday April 20.

1 LOCH GARRY ☐ 3 LEEDS ☐ 5 QUANTOCKS ☐
2 IMMINGHAM ☐ 4 HULL ☐

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

CAMPUS

Left trots back at Blackpool

THE slogan "Working for Students" is used by the National Union of Students to promote itself to its membership. After this week's NUS conference at Blackpool it should be changed to "Working for Nols and Trots".

The National Organization of Labour Students and hard left groups like Socialist Organizers (referred to generally by conference as Trots) have systematically seen to it that independent students did not get on to the full-time body of the NUS executive committee. These organizations are usually at each other's throats, but in order that Nols could retain the presidency, they did a deal with the Trots which effectively blocked the other candidates.

Cosmo Hawkes, a popular independent candidate, was a dangerous threat to the long-standing hold that Nols has maintained on the presidency. But to ensure the election of their candidate, Stephen Twigg, Nols sold out to the Trots.

Cosmo Hawkes claims that fewer than one per cent of students on campus are members of hard left groups such as Left Unity, Socialist Workers and Socialist Organization. But in Blackpool they won between them a third of the seats on the national executive council. The NUS has not been representative of students since the late 1960s because of its undemocratic structure. It has consistently

Will more groups disaffiliate from the NUS after this year's conference 'carve-up' by the left?

placed its own political antics above the interests of students, in general. Students are regarded as voting fodder by the various political groupings, and despite repeated attempts by moderate students to get an effective national union, reform has failed every time.

The Blackpool conference resulted in a debate which paid lip-service to reform but in effect did nothing. It also

resulted in six moderate students, including four independents, being voted out as the various political factions played their game of espionage. Some of the delegates cannot be blamed. There was a large independent fringe meeting in response to the outcome of the conference, and many Nols members tore up their cards in disgust at their leadership.

An independent grouping called "Students for students"

was set up about three years ago as a faction to beat all factions, again a response to events at conference. It lasted about a year but failed to unite student unionists, partly because of the enormous turnover of independent students going to conference, and partly because the delegates were too diverse in their views. Reform from within has therefore become virtually impossible, with the political groupings always able to do deals to ensure that they remain in power.

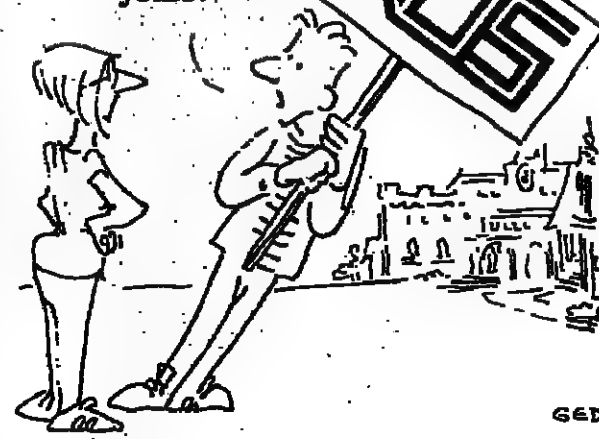
I suspect, because of this conference, we will see a great many more disaffiliation attempts in the coming year. Both soft left students and moderate Conservative students, including the Tory Reform Group of which I am a member, will unite, not to destroy student unionism as some hard-right students wish to do, but to reform it to make "working for students" a truthful slogan.

I hope that students recognize the inherent problems with the present structure of NUS and its long-standing history of maintaining the status quo, and do not get taken in by a bunch of political hacks more intent on securing their own political ends than doing anything for student unionism.

Richard Patience

● The author is a student at Southampton University

Should I lean to my left or way over to yours?



GED

The Conservative Collegiate Forum answers its critics

THE comments by Jacob Rees-Mogg (Campus, March 31) obscure the real nature of the Conservative Collegiate Forum (CCF). Despite the heated debate on campus over the introduction of student top-up loans and the community charge, the Conservative student organization is going through a period of expansion.

There are now 10,000 members in 100 branches nationwide. The 101st branch is likely to be Southwark College, hardly in the Conservative heartlands.

Tories top up with working-class blood

Conservative student activists tend to be on the Thatcherite wing of the party, because many are new to the cause and have been attracted by a political creed which champions individual responsibility, private ownership and reduced state activity.

These new recruits have tended to come increasingly

from working-class backgrounds, a fact which the old establishment Tories find distasteful.

The political debate on campus creates tough-minded Conservative student activists. The activities of militant student unions and of the Labour-run National Union of Students means that the

Conservatives have to defend their policies in the face of onslaught from a publicly financed socialist propaganda machine.

The CCF is at the forefront of debate. No doubt some policies may seem to be way off the political agenda at present. But so was privatization when Conservative students called for it in 1974, and so were student loans when they were first advocated.

Alex Aiken

● The author is national director of the Conservative Collegiate Forum

THE SUNDAY TIMES

BRITAIN'S RICHEST 200

The most revealing guide to wealth in this country ever published.

Their total wealth amounts to nearly 10 per cent of Britain's total gross product.

Five of them are women. Thirty-five have been to Eton. Six of them are immigrants. Some would rather not appear on the list.

Meet Britain's richest 200, in *The Sunday Times*.

TOMORROW

EATING OUT

Jonathan Meades sets course for Greenwich, and discovers an oddity on the south-eastern shores

A voyage into wicker's world

Burma is confined to barracks. It incarcerated itself years back. So our conception of it belongs to other ages, other generations. Kipling, Orwell, the Burma Road, the acronym BURMA inscribed on a million envelopes. And that was that. Burma decided against occidental contamination, and so it disappeared from the inventory of the exotic: some sort of spoil-sport, declined to offer its bar-girls to the flower of western manhood, indeed it is so backward that it doesn't even have bar-girls. And I'll bet there is no one in Burma who has the recipe for a Rickshaw cocktail. It obviously doesn't deserve a luxury hotel with thatched umbrellas round the pool.

The reason why there is apparently only one Burmese restaurant in this country may have something to do with the scarcity of migrants from that country but, more likely, it is linked to our conception of Burma — off the map, off the menu. The less a place prays on our imagination the less likely we are to wish to be afflicted by its grub. Colomb-Béchar — what did people eat in western Algeria *aux temps des colonies*? We don't know and we don't care.

To reach what is probably Britain's only Burmese restaurant you head to Greenwich, which is on the way to Rangoon. Well, to more-or-less Greenwich. The uncharitable might call it Deptford. Mandalay's décor is Beginner's Burmese — wicker, rattan, wood, basketwork. Plus photos of Pagan. The aural décor is by Cat Stevens, morose dross which should be proscribed. The base of much Burmese cooking appears to be a mix of tomato, onions and spices called *kai-byun*. It is the equivalent of a *masala* or a *saffron*. Although the particular gamut of spices that it includes distinguishes it from other bases it does prompt a certain homogeneity of flavour. I think it's safe to aver that Burmese cooking is not especially various: tamarind and coriander are often met with, and so is "fish gravy" which is used in lieu of salt. There are, surely enough, marked affinities with Thai cooking but surprisingly few with Chinese.

The young man who runs the place is of Anglo-Burmese and Burmese parentage. He is an intelligent enthusiast for the cooking of his native country, which he left at the age of nine. His restaurant is partly fuelled by nostalgia — nostalgia means, properly, a yearning for a



lost home. And he is thus inclined to treat recipes as canonical. I suspect he has a mite too much respect for "authenticity"; that, anyway, may be an explanation for the crudeness of certain dishes, a sort of curry of fried hake, for instance — unskinned and unboned fish does not improve such a concoction. And some stir fried cabbage managed to recall with unerring precision the flavour of long-boiled school cabbage of long ago. These dishes were some way short of the mean standard. Two soups were a match for those to be had in all but the very best Thai places: one was a lemongy chicken broth with egg noodles, slices of hard-boiled albumen and a previous unencountered (and, I'm afraid, indecipherable) combination of spices; the other was a thin and intense fish stock, soured by tamarind, and containing fried onions, noodles and, best of all, *dahl* (that is

to say dhal or crushed pulses) in batter. Other dishes which suggest that this establishment is more than just a curiosity are chicken with coriander, deep fried marrow with chili sauce, a bizarre stew of courgettes and turnip-like radish, and the sweets. The ice cream is closer to *kulfi* than it is to the European stuff; semolina cake bears some resemblance to a south Indian sweetmeat that the Ganpath at

MANDALAY
★★★★
100 Greenwich South Street,
London SE10 (01-891 4443)
Lunch Sunday, Dinner Tuesday
to Sunday
£30-£38. Major cards.
RAOUL'S THE RESTAURANT
★★★★
30 Clifton Road, London W9 (01-286 2260)
Lunch Tues to Sun, Dinner Mon
to Sat.
£20. Major cards.

King's Cross used to sell (and still may). It is flavoured with almonds and has the texture of very fondant fudge. This is one to keep dentists in mind for years to come and wins the Curious Pleasure Of The Month award.

So: worth the trip to Greenwich? It all depends where you're starting from and how acute your navigational skills are. Mine failed me. I made a series of wrong moves. Seventy-five minutes. I could have reached the New Forest in that time. It was worth it though, for a palatal glimpse of a far-off country of which we know very little. £30 to £38 without alcohol.

However hard I try, it takes me no more than five minutes to drive to Raoul's The Restaurant. The 70 extra minutes to Greenwich are worth it. Raoul's The Restaurant (named, of course, to distinguish it from Raoul's The Tip) belongs to the same school of restoration as

Columbus but has yet to scale even the foothills which that establishment has ascended.

What is the name for this style of decoration, whose components are "distressed" plaster, wrought metal, hard edges? Maybe Guernica is apt, for the impression is of something blitzed and Hispanic. Or Los Alamos. I don't know. I do know that Raoul's The Restaurant is a classic of the genre. There are Festival of Britain-style candle sconces, a marble floor, a bit of classical mural, no cornices or dados or skirting boards. The chairs are metal, "stylish" and ergonomically disastrous. It is pretty clear, indeed, that Raoul's The Style triumphs over Raoul's The Substance.

Apart from its look, this place has very little to offer. Unless, that is, you enjoy noise: pop music plays non-stop and it is, so far as I can recall, the only restaurant I've been to where you could hear neighbours banging on the wall in protest. This customer felt like banging on the table in protest at the cooking, at the sluggishness of the staff — I'd guess that they are about two waiters light.

The organization is haphazard: some tables are given olives and things to pick at, others aren't. No one seems sure what he or she should be doing. All this would be tolerable — just about — were the cooking any good. It isn't. Among the kitchen's several faults are (a) the inability to trim meat; (b) the inability to cook it accurately; (c) a striving for novelty — hence a dish composed of alligator meat; (d) the practice of "garnishing" dishes with halved strawberries.

Pickled peppers are so vinegary they are mouth muggers. Tiny mussels (guaranteed 75 per cent bone) are served in a pool of melted butter with a strawberry floating in it.

Lamb cutlets are at once greasy from their winter-thick mantle of fat and drought dry from overcooking. A T-bone steak was one of the less salutary lumps of meat I've supped — fat, raw in parts and grey in others. The chips with it were unexceptionable, and so was a chocolate marquise.

In the Columbus tradition, no vintages are given for the wines. Against expectation they turned out all right. A half of Domaine de Montigny Sancerre 88 was serviceable, and a half of Domaine des Anges Côtes de Ventoux was the best thing about a pretty duff dinner. £33.

DIRECTORY

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

CHILDREN WELCOME

Nantes
★★★★★
16 Camden High Street,
London NW1 (01-387 4579).
Along with Yerkina, Nantes occupies the top rung of the Camden Cypriot ladder. It looks better than most such joints and the cooking matches those looks. The meat is copious and fresh. Apart from that there is a fine soup of lentils flavoured with lemon and a variety of meats and sausages. Friendly service, noisy clientele. £25.

McCoy's Bistro
★★★★★
The Cleveland Tavern,
Stokebridge, Northampton,
North Yorks (060 982 671).
Great basic dishes in the basement former kitchen of the McCoy Brothers' excellently run, conformist hotel. The black pudding from the Fildes of Yorkshire called France is maybe the best in Britain. Also beef casserole, Yorkshire pud, steak, crab with fine mayonnaise, filling mussels, champagne wines. Cameron's beer. £30.

Pierre Victoire
★★★★★
10 Victoria Street, Edinburgh 1
(01 225 1721).
Chaotic, cramped, noisy, animated bistro in Edinburgh Old Town. The cooking, within its limitations, is mostly pretty good and is excellent value for money. Scallops with warm smoked salmon, halibut with mussels, pork with mango sauce. Service is liable to disruptions. £25.

Los Andes
★★★★★
806 Bristol Road, Selly Oak,
Birmingham 28 (021 471 3577).
Small South American diner with dishes from all over the subcontinent. The live music is a bore but some of the dishes are all right if rather crude: hot beef stew, hot lamb stew, empanadas stuffed with chicken or beef and raisins, chicken with cream sauce. Mexican beer is a better bet than the rather dismal selection of wines. £23.

Casa Santana
★★★★★
44 Goltown Road, London
W10 (01 988 8764).
Portuguese cafe cum restaurant. Good basic grub, totally unrefined. Paçoca is a bean stew along the lines of God's first fry at cassoulet. The fried squid is good, and so are the amazingly cheap wines. £22.

Pizzeria Castello
★★★★★
20 Walworth Road, London
SE1 (01-703 2558).
The best pizzas in London by a long way. Big restaurant, tanks of pizza ovens by the door, utilitarian décor, fantastic bustle as though this was Naples itself. The prices are very low for cooking of such excellence. Drink Cola Secchi. The pasta dishes are perfectly OK but don't match the main business of the place. £26.
Poons
★★★★★
4 Leicester Street, London
WC2 (01-437 1528).
Underground cafe which serves one of London's greatest dishes: hotpot of oat, belly pork and garlic. Also worth the trip are the wind-dried meats and sausages, and the wine. The food is not and they fail to honour bookings. The cooking at the other branches of Poons is disappointing. £24.

Don Pepe
★★★★★
89 Frampton Street, London
NW8 (01-262 3834).
Antiquated Sicilian tapas bar and restaurant that is an unofficial club for local Spaniards. The bar is rather better than the restaurant. The Assarum (a Sicilian sausage), the black puddings, the mountain ham, the tortilla and the skewered pork are all commendable. Tapas £10, meat £25.

EAST EUROPEAN

Kaspia
★★★★★
18 Bruton Place, London W1
(01-493 2012).
Snack bar for the very rich — caviar, champagne, vodka and fish served in rather club-like surroundings in Mayfair mews. £20.

Wodka
★★★★★
12 St Albans Grove, London
W8 (01-537 6513).
Smart and fashionable joint serving rather elevated Polish and Russian dishes. The decorative style is industrial chic. The wines are mostly New World, the flavoured vodkas are bad, the cooking is well-gauged. Placard of sausage and mushrooms, kulbaski of salmon, fish cakes, black pudding. £20-£100.

Ognisko Polskie
★★★★★
55 Exhibition Road, London
SW7 (01-589 4636).
The restaurant of the Polish Heath Club is open to non-members and serves excellently prepared traditional dishes such as tripe in the Warsaw manner, potato pancakes with sour cream, wild mushrooms, sauerkraut, flavoured vodka. £25.

Lowiczanka
★★★★★
235-245 King Street, London,
W6 (01-741 3225).
The restaurant of the Polish Social and Cultural Centre. The clientele is largely composed of Polish families. They are served by matronly ladies in "authentic" costumes. The food is copious — tripe, stuffed cabbage, cured sausage, potato pancakes, sweet pancakes. £22.

RESTAURANT AND CATERING GUIDE



大三元 THE Good Earth

A completely new menu is now being served at all our Branches. It contains a large number of surprises. The vegetarian section has been greatly enhanced in order to satisfy the demand for healthier eating.

We can serve from 12-120 persons in a completely private and sumptuous setting.

Chris Tan and Ah Tong will be pleased to assist you with your enquiries.

To serve you is our pleasure!

REGIONAL CHINESE CUISINE IS OUR SPECIALITY

KNIGHTSBOROUGH: 233 Brompton Road, London SW3. Tel: 01-584 3658/2593
CHelsea: 91 Kings Road, London SW3. Tel: 01-352 8231/4692
MIL HILL: 143-145 The Broadway, London NW7. Tel: 01-959 7011/7464
ESHER: 14-16 High Street, Esher, Surrey. Tel: 01753 62499/66661

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. 24 HOUR FAX BOOKINGS. 01-823 8769

HEAVE TO, ME HEARTIES! IT'S THE GREAT CHELSEA HARBOUR TREASURE HUNT

at CHELSEA HARBOUR
Lotts Road, SW10

SATURDAY 14TH and SUNDAY 15TH APRIL
12.00 noon - 6.00 pm

PRESTIGIOUS PRIZES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN
CLUBS - CIRCUS WORKSHOP - FACE PAINTING
SWING BOATS - BOUNCING CASTLE
SHOPS - RESTAURANTS - FOOD STALLS

For Details ring: 01 351 5533



mr Kong

Mr Kong Restaurant for the finest Cantonese cuisine, specialising in seafood and highly spiced dishes.

Parties catered for.
Pre-theatre dinners. Fully licensed.
OPENING HOURS
12.00 NOON - 2.00 AM
21 LISLE STREET, LONDON WC2
TEL: 01-437 7341

THE BRIGHT RISING STAR RESTAURANT

Fully Air Conditioned
Fishing & Cantonese
Cuisine A Variety of
different live acts & Live
Music Sat - Mon Even

Catering Service
Also Available
105 Wembley
Park Drive,
Wembley
902 8002
903 6075

MORTONS HOUSE HOTEL REQUIRES PASTRY CHEF

Live in available
Wages Negotiable
Contact
DARREN BOTT
TEL: 0929 480988

FRESH SOUTH COAST LOBSTERS

£8.75 per lb + carriage
Available for delivery anywhere in
the U.K. within 24 hours.
DAVID PIROUET
3 Salford Parade
Salford
(0703) 786199

Florians

BAR • RESTAURANT
REGIONAL ITALIAN COOKING
Dinner, Lunch, Supper, Brunch and
Weekend Paragade Models Lane
CROFT ROAD, LONDON, W11 6EP
TELEPHONE: 01-352 8833/3333

LAKSMI INDIAN RESTAURANT

The management and staff of the Laksmi Indian Restaurant look forward to welcoming you to their newly designed restaurant.

Offering a friendly and attentive service, you can be guaranteed a pleasurable night out enjoying authentic Indian cuisine. Choose to eat in one of the four different dining rooms or book the Private Party Room for a special celebration.

The Best Restaurant in London, 4 different Dining Areas. Private Party Room available.

Opening times:
Sunday to Wednesday
12 noon - 2.30 pm
6.00 pm - Midnight
Thursday to Saturday
12 noon - 2.30 pm
6.00 pm - 12.30 am
7 days a week including holidays
Fully air conditioned. Fully licensed

LAKSMI INDIAN RESTAURANT
116 MILE END ROAD, E1
01-265 9369

BRING THIS ADVERT WITH YOU DURING THE FIRST WEEK AND A TABLE OF FOUR PEOPLE WILL BE WELCOMED WITH A FREE BOTTLE OF WINE

GALLIPOLI RESTAURANT
7-8 Bishopsgate Churchyard
off Old Broad Street
(round the corner from
Liverpool St)
London EC2M 3JT
Tel: 01-588 1922/23
OPEN FOR
Lunch and dinner until
2.30am
Two cabaret shows, one at 10.30
pm and also at 1.00 am.
Famous Belly Dancers and a singer
Turkish and French cuisine served
in the only Turkish Restaurant in
the City

The Times

Restaurant &
Catering Guide
appears every Saturday
To place your advertisement
please telephone
01-481 1920

Where our Sales Team will
be happy to advise you

CAFE SOCIETY

The ultimate dry martini

Charles Hennessy
visits New York's
21, the speakeasy

T

oday there is an overwrought iron gate, a cigar store jockey and one of those doorman types rent from the Moldavian Royal Guard to greet you. But there was a time, not so long ago, when to get in here you had to knock three times and ask for Jack or Charlie — and hope they liked what they saw through the peephole. Feds, marks and such were less than welcome in a speak, which is what 21 was in its racy youth.

To its older habitués, this American classic and New York landmark is still "Jack and Charlie's", though their needs are now catered for by the founding pair's younger brothers, Peter Krieger and Jerry Berns. The name evokes, with good cause, the years of Prohibition and the speakeasies that sprang up all over town in outraged and ingenious defiance of that ultimately hopeless law.

In 1922, a trip to the speak became part of the way of life of people seeking, not necessarily alcoholic oblivion but the company of others wanting simply, as one patron memorably put it, "to get out of these wet clothes and into a dry martini". Too often, though, what you got in the mandatory teacup was either vomit made from wood alcohol or the decent stuff so watered down that it might as well have been tea.

There was clearly a hole in the market, and Jack Krieger and his cousin, Charlie Berns, dropped out of college (temporarily, as they thought, to make a quick buck or two to continue their education) to perform a social duty by filling it. Their first speakeasy, the Red Head, revealed their flair for the work. Your average speak was a dark back-room where people silently and furiously guzzled booze. Jack and Charlie's was a clubby, jazzy place where the town's artists, writers, musicians and sportsmen gathered to whoop it up, dance the new Charleston and exchange the latest daring badinage ("Nerts to you" always went over big).

Other speakeasies served boring mashed potato meals. Jack and Charlie proposed fancy sandwiches which, as they proudly proclaimed, gave you



21 today: when you walk past the iron gate and down the steps, you feel understood!

a choice you could have ham and cheese, or you could have ham or cheese. At weekends the innovative chef extended his repertoire to include eggs and steak. They treated you right at Jack and Charlie's. But the boys were already looking to something fancier: a late-night club with a closed door policy. So in 1925 they pensioned off the Red Head and opened the Fronton across the street, a real, classy speak complete with peephole in the door. The bar was minimalist: two sawhorses supporting a plank over a drain. On the bar stood four large pitchers filled with Scotch, rye, gin and bourbon. If trouble came, in the shape of the law, the stuff was poured down the drain and the patrons poured out the back by way of the coal cellar door.

When the city decided to build a subway station on the site, it was time to move on, but this time to Mid-town Manhattan. The new joint was a fashionable town house, complete with iron gate, at 42 West 49th Street. Jack's aim was to recreate a European coffee house or 18th century tavern, an elegant place where men of a certain social standing could come together to talk, exchange ideas and make new friends. To get in you had to be known to the house, introduced by a regular or just look right.

Then came Black Tuesday. Other businesses responded by raising prices and refusing credit. Jack and Charlie held the long view. They held prices, issued credit, advanced money and cashed cheques. For customers short of the ready they printed their own scrip. As a result of this apparent altruism they gained life-long allegiance and hence

patronage from those they had helped. Then, when the good times rolled round again, the Rockefeller decided to offer themselves Rockefeller Centre, to be sited just about on top of Jack and Charlie's. Typically, the pair turned this devastating problem into an occasion. On New Year's Eve, 1929, they held a demolition party for all their friends and customers (which was roughly the same thing). They had found a new home at 21 West 52nd Street, just off Fifth Avenue. The revellers started the party at the old location, then moved on three blocks to the new place, carrying bottles, furniture and relics. In a fit of nostalgia, somebody decided to take the gate along as well. The next day, the gate was up and 21 open. Both are still there.

In the Thirties, the food took on a new extravagance — and people had the money to pay for it. (The *canard sauvage à la presse* and *Steak Diane* that appeared on the menu then may be ordered today.) There was another setback, though. With the repeal of the hated Prohibition, new clubs opened all over and the beautiful people had to check them all out. But Jack and Charlie held on and the crowd came back. Groucho Marx, Bernard Baruch and Helen Hayes were regulars, joined in the Forties and Fifties by Hemingway, Dietrich, Grace Kelly and her prince. Presidents, too, have felt at home here: they include Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter. In 1987 the old interior received a \$10 million facelift.

When you walk past the iron gate, down the steps and into 21 today, you feel more

than welcome, you feel understood. "Everyone who walks through the door is treated as if they haven't had their first cup of coffee in the morning," observed one regular. The place is calm, carpeted, print-hung, lush-carpeted, old money. Beyond the lobby, the bar is imposing, as classic New York bars are, but it has a ceiling before which an aesthete might recoil: it is hung with every conceivable artefact, from a baseball glove to a model ship. There are tables beyond and, though there are rooms upstairs, old hands would probably say that downstairs is best, if only because downstairs *anywhere* is best.

Service is American-efficient and the menu a mix of Americans (Littleneck or Cherrystone clams, about \$5.50, 21 burger with French fries, chicken hash like it, both \$15) and International High Living (joins of venison with glazed chestnuts and fish relish, \$23, roast pheasant with black truffle sauce, \$24). The wine list is excellent, heavy on the Californians. Cheap it ain't, but you'll be well looked after.

When I went in just before Christmas last year, a band immediately struck up, exasperating, if only marginally, I thought, the importance of my arrival on the premises. Then the customers, song sheets in hand, broke into song. One day in 1940, it seems, Jack and Charlie had heard the Salvation Army band playing in the street, and invited them in. Their annual carol-playing has become one of the most popular of traditions at 21 and, certainly in its origins, more respectable than some.

© New York: the greatest (and worst) show on earth. Page 57

THE TIMES COOK

Sweet art of palm reading

In honour of Palm Sunday tomorrow, Frances Bissell passes on some exotic uses for coconuts, dates, figs and bananas

DIANA LEADGATTER

In many parts of England, Palm Sunday used to be known as Fig Sunday, when it was the custom to eat figs, boiled fig puddings or fig pies. This is said to be connected with the description of the barren fig tree after Christ's entry into Jerusalem.

It is actually the palm tree which provided me with the ideas for today's recipes, or rather, several types of palm tree. Recently, in Kuala Lumpur, we were served on successive days a coconut tart and a banana tart, very different from each other and both extremely good. Bernard Langlais, the Kuala Lumpur Regent's French pâtissier, told me how to make them, and I pass on these recipes, including his recipe for sweet shortcrust pastry. I have added one of my own for date tart. If you want to revive the custom of eating figs on Fig Sunday, then this recipe would easily adapt to figs. Use unsulphured ones if possible; cut off the stalk end, quarter them, and soak for 20 to 30 minutes in hot water before draining and drying them.

Three palm trees are needed to make my favourite Malaysian pudding, *gula melaka*: sago from the sago palm (although you can use tapioca), jaggery or palm sugar from the nippah or sugar palm, and coconut milk from the coconut palm. The sago is cooked in water until soft and translucent and packed into oiled moulds. When set, it is turned out into a dish containing palm sugar syrup and thick coconut milk is poured over the top. It is a lovely cooling sweet after spicy food.

This soup recipe is quite unusual, a savoury coconut soup. It sounds very fashionable and modern, the sort of thing you might serve hot or chilled. In fact, it comes from Eliza Acton's *Modern Cookery* of 1845.

Coconut soup

(Serves 6 to 8)

2pt/1.15l chicken or vegetable stock, plus any gravy
3oz/85g desiccated or freshly grated coconut
pinch of ground mace
1oz/30g riceflour or cornflour
½pt/140ml single cream
salt
pepper or cayenne

Put the stock and coconut in a saucepan with the mace, and simmer, covered, for an hour. Press through a fine sieve into a clean saucepan. Mix the flour with a little water, and stir it into the soup. Bring to the boil, and then add the cream and season to taste. Miss Acton suggests that for those who do not like a cream soup, wine, sherry, or port would make a suitable alternative. I would use two small glasses of dry Amontillado sherry. Let it simmer for 10 minutes or so before serving, to allow the alcohol to evaporate.

This next recipe also uses coconut, or rather the milk which can be extracted from it. This is not the same thing as the clear liquid inside the nut. To make coconut milk, half fill a 1pt jug with freshly grated or desiccated coconut. Put it into a bowl with a pint of very hot water. Let it steep for 20 minutes or so, and then blend it for 30 seconds. Pour through a fine sieve, and press hard to extract as much milk as possible. Apart from making a refreshing drink or the *gula melaka*, it can be used to make a sorbet or an ice-



cream, or as a cooking liquid in place of stock or wine. A richer version is made by using less water or more coconut. If you let the milk stand overnight, a solid layer of fat or "cream" will settle on the top. This can be skimmed off and used as a cooking medium in which to fry other ingredients. It is worth remembering, however, that coconut oil is very high in saturated fats — 90 per cent, compared with 16 per cent saturated fat in olive oil and 11 per cent in sunflower oil. Make half a pint of fairly thick milk for this recipe. It is a dish that cooks in a matter of minutes if you have everything to hand. Serve it as a starter or as a main course with rice. Small queen scallops can be added, as can chunks of monkfish or salmon.

Prawns in coconut sauce

(Serves 6)

1 medium onion

2-3 cloves of garlic, or to taste
1tbsp groundnut or sunflower oil
2 stalks lemon grass, optional
2in/5cm cinnamon stick
4 cloves
2-3tsp freshly grated ginger
3oz/85g mangosteen or broccoli florets
3oz/85g shrimps, or prawns
mushrooms, sliced or not, as you wish
3oz/85g bean sprouts, blanched
2lb/900g prawns in the shell
1tsp soy sauce
1tsp toasted sesame oil
1tbsp rice vinegar or coconut vinegar
½pt/280ml coconut milk
chopped coriander or chives

Peel and finely chop the onion and garlic, and fry gently in the oil until transparent. Slice the lemon

grass into three or four pieces if using it, and add it to the pan with the cinnamon, cloves and ginger. Cook the spices until the fragrant oils are released, after about five minutes, then add the vegetables. Stir fry for eight to 10 minutes, adding 2-3 tablespoons of water to stop the ingredients sticking. Add the prawns, and fry for three or four minutes. Stir in the soy sauce, sesame oil and vinegar, and then the coconut milk. Simmer gently for a few minutes so that an exchange of flavours can take place. Stir in the herbs and serve in a heated dish. If you like spicy food, a sliced chilli, from which you have first removed the seeds, can be fried with the spices at the beginning.

Banana tart

(Serves 6 to 8)

6 bananas

juice of 1 lemon

3tbsp rum

7oz/200g shortcrust or sweet pastry
4 eggs
5oz/140g icing sugar, sifted
7oz/200g ground almonds
1-2tbsp flaked almonds

Slice the bananas, and soak them in the lemon juice and rum for an hour. Line a 9in/23cm flan ring or mould with the pastry, and bake blind at 200°C/400°F/gas mark 6 for 10 minutes. Remove the foil and beans or whatever you use to weight the pastry, and return it to the oven for five minutes. Remove and allow it to cool slightly. Mix the eggs and icing sugar together, and stir in the ground almonds. Put the drained banana slices in the pie dish, mix the remaining rum and lemon liquid with the egg mixture, and pour it over the bananas. Scatter the flaked almonds on top, and bake it at 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4 for 30 minutes or until the filling has set. Serve warm or cold.

Coconut tart

(Serves 6 to 8)

7oz/200g shortcrust or sweet pastry
4 eggs
1oz/30g cornflour
5oz/140g castor sugar
a generous ¼pt/140ml single cream

5oz/140g desiccated coconut
Line a 9in/23cm tart tin with the pastry, and bake blind as in the previous recipe. Beat the eggs, cornflour and sugar together, and then add the cream and the coconut. Mix well and pour into the pastry case. Bake at 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4 for 30 minutes, until set and the top is lightly browned. Serve warm or cold.

Date tart

(Serves 6 to 8)

7oz/200g shortcrust or sweet pastry
4 eggs
¼lb/110g castor or light muscovado sugar
¼pt/140ml single cream
3oz/85g ground almonds
¼lb/230g whole dates

Line a 9in/23cm tart tin with the pastry, and bake blind as in the banana tart recipe. Beat the eggs, sugar and cream, then stir in the ground almonds. Halve the dates lengthways, and remove the stone. Arrange the dates in the pastry case, and pour on the custard. Bake at 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4 for 30 minutes or until the filling has set. Serve warm or cold, dusted with icing sugar, if liked.

Sweet pastry

(Lines a 9in/23cm tart tin)

3oz/85g softened butter
¼lb/110g castor sugar
1 egg
7oz/200g flour, sifted
pinch of salt

Cream the butter and sugar until light. Slowly add the egg and then the sifted flour and salt. Lightly work the mixture together until it binds to a dough. Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour before use.

● Note: All these recipes can be used for individual tarts, and the quantities given, including the pastry, will make 24 x 2½in/6cm tarts.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

COFFEE

Thoughts of a realist

I HAVE tried it with a stopwatch, and I know. Instant coffee is no quicker to make than real. Even grinding from beans takes scarcely more time than opening a jar, and after that it is just a matter of applying boiling water to powder in both cases. The results are incomparable — yet nine-tenths of the coffee sold in Britain is "instant".

It sells, I suppose, on ignorance and laziness. Instant coffee got a head start in Britain because we were primarily a tea-drinking nation, with no strong tradition of coffee appreciation. Even now, many people believe that real coffee has to be lengthily brewed in a percolator, or that it can be kept steaming indefinitely on a hot-plate without tasting brackish.

A restaurant which serves instant coffee would know it risks disgrace, yet thousands are happy to serve real coffee which has been ruined, and is much more actively atrocious than instant coffee, which is merely dreary. The good news is that coffee drinkers' preferences are apparently not dictated entirely by the televisually serialized courtship of a woman with a mouth too full of teeth; or by the pretence that the only difference between real and instant is the sound of the percolator perking.

True, the Nescafé Gold Blend campaign, centred on Sharon Maughan and her beaux, has not only won prizes but ballooned the product's sales, while Red Mountain's advertisements, in which the people making the coffee supply noises by gargling and slurping, have doubled its market share in less than two years.

The good news, though, is that where two-thirds of our coffee imports were of the coarse and inferior robusta varieties and only one-third quality arabicas, those proportions are now reversed. This is mildly encouraging, which is what you could say, too, about the emergence of "instant", or more properly freeze-dried, brands such as Cap Colombe and Alta Rica, which are 100 per cent arabica.

There was never much excuse for preferring lower quality coffee, because the price difference on premium grades has always been much less with coffee than they are, for example, with tea or wine.

Typically, arabica coffee is only about a fifth more expensive than robusta; even Jamaican Blue Mountain beans, the most famous of all, command about four times the going rate for more common coffees. But

whereas in French supermarkets the coffees have long been clearly marked as arabica, robusta, or as blends of the two, the average British consumer still does not know the difference.

Do not suppose that the recent collapse in the commodity price of coffee, while ruinous for Third World farmers, will necessarily benefit British consumers. The original price of the beans is, in any case, a small element of the final price of the coffee, compared with the mark-ups imposed by dealers, processors, packers and retailers. And while drinking so much instant coffee has little or no effect on the speed with which the cup is ready, it certainly slows up the arrival of any price reductions.

The reason for this is that instant coffee is not a fresh, perishable product, but a heavily processed one with a protracted shelf life. Falls in the wholesale price take at least six to nine months to show up on retailers' shelves, if they ever do. This time slump in value of the pound may serve to postpone the price reduction indefinitely.

As with most other things, though, there are good grounds for paying more and drinking less. There is medical evidence to link excessive consumption of coffee with headaches, irritability, sleeplessness and heart disease. And drinking decaffeinated coffee has as little point as drinking non-alcoholic wine.

Once you start to experiment with coffee, it can be dangerously addictive, with so many varieties available, so many different degrees of roasting, and so many ways of preparing the final brew. You can spend as much as £500 for an extravagance of a home espresso, or make do with a spoon and a jug.

My present preference is for high roast Colombian, and I have abandoned the business of detaching the daily blast of coffee by pushing the plunger on a glass *cafétière* for the more instant pleasure provided by an Italian screw-together, dual-chambered metal jug, which forces the boiling water through a central section holding the coffee powder and into the top half for pouring.

I should mention, though, a use for instant coffee. I hear that if you mix it with water to make a thick paste, it is miraculously good as a dressing for cold sores.

Robin Young

DRINK

The wine trade is facing a rocky future but, ever optimistic, it can still find reasons to be cheerful, Jane MacQuitty writes

For better, for worse

At the moment the wine trade feels it has little reason to rejoice. John Major's budget, with its increases of 7p on a bottle of wine and 11p on sparkling wine, is not the problem — although I don't know how the whisky trade will cope with the extra 54p on spirits, on top of the already punishing £4.73 per bottle currently paid in duty.

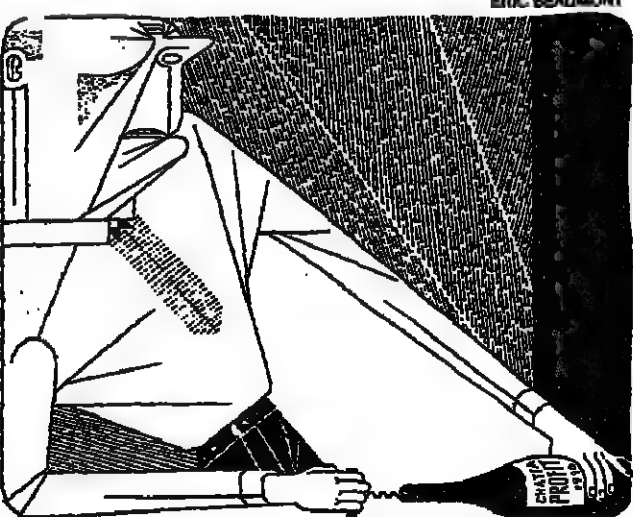
The wine trade's woes are more to do with the hefty price increases passed on from their suppliers, particularly the French. These increases, along with those from West Germany, have been aggravated by the low sterling rate against the franc (down 14 per cent since last August) and the Deutschmark. These two factors have resulted in one of the most difficult purchasing periods British wine buyers have known. Kim Tidy, wine buyer for the Thrasher and Wine Rack outlets, feels: "It is an absolute nightmare. You are faced with price increases of a minimum of 8 per cent going up to 30 per cent, on top of a currency devaluation fluctuating between 12 per cent and 15 per cent."

Oddbins' buyers feel the same way, and a few weeks back were hoping that sterling would stabilize. Now Oddbins and other UK outlets have found that many of their suppliers are reluctant to quote prices at the lower end of the business, because of the uncertainty in the British market. Sainsbury's wine department agrees. Allan Cheeseman, director of off-licence buying, said in his wine newsletter this month: "Currency, too, seems linked to current events and the dramatically lower levels of the Deutschmark and franc

are causing all sorts of difficulties, as we, in the company of the rest of the trade, no doubt, wrestle with all of these inflationary pressures."

All this has been exacerbated by rumours that Sainsbury, still the largest wine retailer in the country with at least 17 per cent of the market, overestimated its Christmas sales and is awash with wine. This means that everyone else is likely to try to maintain prices, until the supermarket giant gets through its backlog of wines, bought when sterling was stronger. At this stage, wine traders anticipate, the public will be ready for the new prices, and some fairly alarming increases could well be seen in the high street. Any wine traders with shaky finances after a miserable Christmas season will find it difficult to continue.

With a rocky ride ahead, this spring is not, perhaps, the right time for wine merchants' celebrations. But the International Exhibition Co-operative Wine Society is still going strong after 116 years. The Wine Society rarely gives itself, or its 72,000 members, a pat on the back, but has done so this spring with the launch of eight new celebration wines. These have been chosen to mark the opening of the Society's vast, new temperature-controlled warehouse at its headquarters in Stevenage. This new cellar will mean that the Wine Society can store 3 million bottles at the ideal temperature of 55°F,



ensuring its continued reputation as the biggest wine club in Britain and the biggest stockholder of wine.

What impressed me most about the Wine Society's eight

WINE BUYS

● 1985 Deinhard Kaiserstuhl Brudersschaft Riesling Kabinett, Peter Dominik and Bottoms Up, £3.29

Inexpensive German white wines have had such a bad Press recently, that it is a relief to be able to recommend a good one. This sweet, flowery-grapey wine has a pleasing scent and good bite and backbone.

● 1986 Chateau Puygarraud, The Victoria Wine Company, £5.99 I was disappointed with the musty contents of the first bottle of this classy Côte de

Francs property that I tasted. François Thienpoint from Puygarraud explained that his chateau, just like everyone else in Bordeaux, has had occasional problems with corks, and the next bottle I tasted was a glorious, rich, cassia-like mouthful. Try it.

● 1987 Fetzer Valley Oak Fumé, Tesco, £5.05 The Fetzer family from California is well-known for providing good value wines. The elegant, spritz, gooseberry-like Sauvignon fruit of this soundly made wine is no exception.

Gassinot, is nowhere near as good as the Celebration Twenty Year Old Tawny Port, with its fine walnut-like flavours (£15). The best is the glorious '82 Celebration Champagne from Alfred Gratien, way ahead of the waxy-flowery '86 Crémant de Loire bubbly from a sister firm (£6.75).

Alfred Gratien is the champagne house that supplies the Wine Society with its excellent own-label bubbly, but this celebration offering is infinitely superior: a wonderfully rich, biscuity-nutty champagne (£16.65 a bottle until April 17, when it becomes £19.95). The Society's '82 Celebration White Burgundy from Remoissenet (£9.75), with its oaky, toasted hazelnut-like style, is delicious too, as is its more mature partner from the same producer, the '79 Celebration Red Burgundy (£9.75), with its mature, gamey, liquorice-like palate. Claret lovers will enjoy the non-vintage Celebration Pomerol (£7.85), from quality Bordeaux merchants J. P. Moueix, whose moreish mix of leather, tar and bitter dark chocolate is a classic, as is its Celebration Margaux (£8.25), from Chateau Siran, with its heady scent and oriental spice palate. The Society has a mixed case, containing two bottles of each of the splendid celebration wines (excluding ports) for £115.

I wish I could be as enthusiastic about The Victoria Wine Company's celebration offerings this month — a trio of

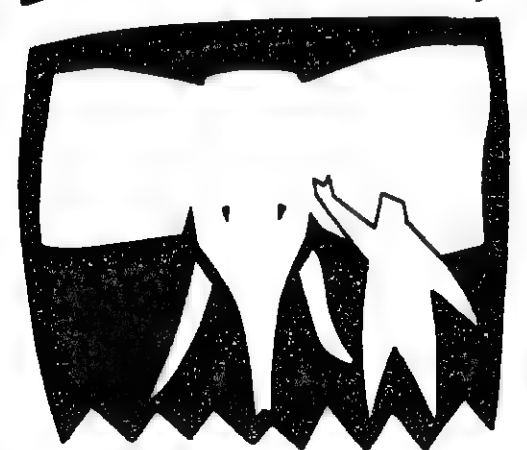
clarets and one champagne, bought to mark the company's 125th anniversary. I have no complaints about the clarets' handsome labels, which are reprints of the 1860s originals, but the wines within are unbelievably dreary.

All three come from Patrice Calvet, who broke away from his Bordeaux family company some years ago to set up on his own. He should know better: the soft, grassy Bordeaux Supérieur (£3.59) is boring, while the St Estéphe (£5.99) is bland beyond belief, and the '85 Chateau Les Hauts de Pontet (£7.99), second wine of fifth-growth Pontet Canet, has a dismal, herbaceous style, not worth the money asked. I was left equally cold by the ordinary, yeasty fruit of the non-vintage Philpionat Royale Réserve, the anniversary champagne (£11.99).

Instead, go to Victoria Wine for the reasonably-priced lemon and lime-like fruit of its South Australia Rhine Riesling (£2.99), which I mentioned last week. This Australian white wine is good value, as is its spicy, albeit quirky, red South Australia Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz sister (£2.99).

Tesco continues to tread on Sainsbury's tail in terms of supermarket wine sales, and there is plenty on its shelves over which to enthuse. One of Tesco's latest arrivals is a cheap Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne, bought from the Bordeaux merchant Yvon Mau. This non-vintage red is given away at just £1.99 a bottle. I thoroughly enjoyed its light, smoky, fragrant scent and berry fruit, reminiscent of redcurrants, and made from Cabernet and Merlot grapes.

ELEFRIENDS



TO HELP STOP ELEPHANTS BEING SLAUGHTERED FOR THEIR IVORY SEND A SAE TO:

Elefriends, Cherry Tree Cottage, Coldharbour, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6HA, or telephone the Elefriend Elephant Lifeline on 0898 338329. (25p Cheap, 38p per min.)

A man who could make Mrs Thatcher look lazy

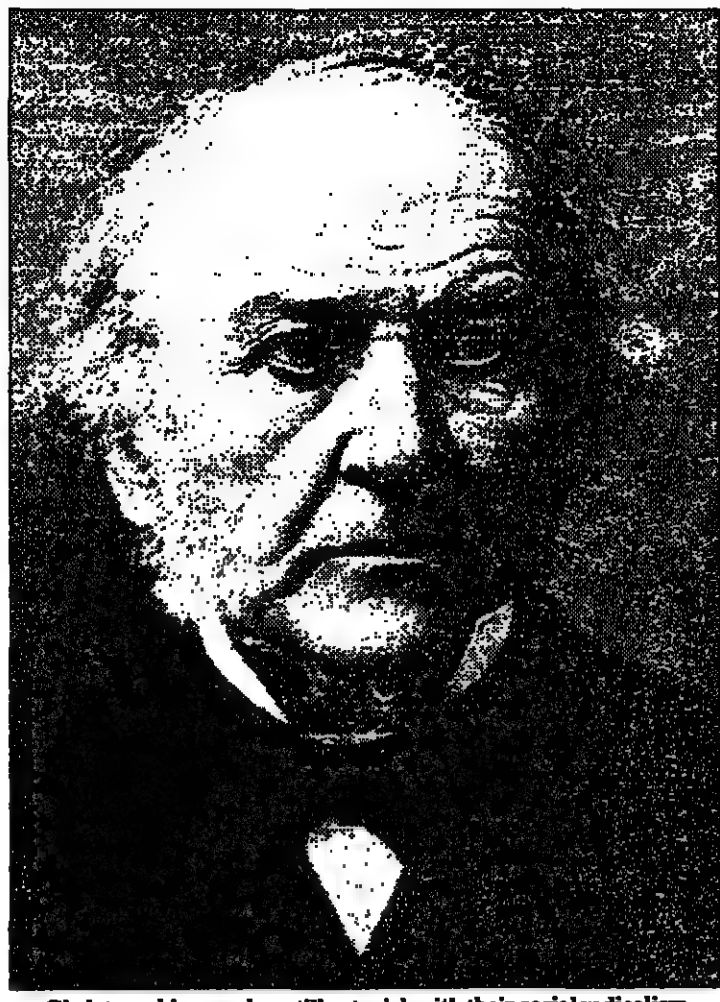
John Campbell
reviews a
Victorian edifice

Gladstone's diaries are on the same heroic scale as his life. They are not of course strictly speaking diaries at all in the reflective, documentary style of Pepys or Crossman — just a bare daily record of meetings held, letters written, and books read, with very occasionally a brief comment. Read consecutively they are more or less impenetrable. Yet the very accumulation of detail makes them one of the major documents of the 19th century. Of no other politician save perhaps Churchill could we possibly want to know so much over so long a span. But Gladstone represents the Victorian mind at such a high level of engagement with his times — in his sheer physical and intellectual energy exhibiting all the Victorian virtues at their highest pitch — that the whole century seems contained in his curt jottings.

Publishing them represents an equally heroic commitment by the Clarendon Press. Twenty-three years after Volume One appeared, we are now up to Volumes 10 and 11, and the climactic years of the second and third premierships, when Gladstone's dominance of the political scene was almost total. Augmented with Cabinet minutes and letters, they form an unprecedentedly complete picture of 19th-century government at work.

Yet almost as important to each pair of volumes as the diary itself is Colin Matthew's magisterial introductory essay — in this instance 165 dense but lucid pages. Without this guidance, pointing up the themes and the plums in the forbidding text, the ordinary reader would be lost. Cumulatively these introductions are forming a superb thematic biography in their own right, the first volume appeared three years ago, and a second will doubtless follow when the whole mighty project is complete. There are still 12 years and one more premiership to go.

Gladstone as Prime Minister in his mid-seventies is an awesome phenomenon — simultaneously Prime Minister, Leader of the House of Commons, and (until 1882) Chancellor of the Exchequer as well. He also personally took all major legislation through the House. It should not be imagined, because the reach of government was smaller and its exercise more intimate, that the physical burden of these three or four jobs was any less than the equivalent would be today. Gladstone was served by a very small staff, and wrote most of his letters by hand himself. In addition he read immensely widely — everything from history and theology to the latest fiction (George Eliot, Henry James) and Richard Burton's translation of the Kama Sutra (on which, sadly, he made no comment). He went to the theatre regularly, and frequented country house weekends, where he talked incessantly, with a volubility and range that exhausted his hearers. From Balmoral he walked to the top of Ben Macdui and back in 7½ hours. And he still found time



Gladstone: his speeches still astonish with their social radicalism

for his nocturnal rescue work with prostitutes. Mrs Thatcher is a slacker by comparison.

He constantly wanted and intended to retire. It was his colleagues who would not let him. They were not just being diplomatic. Unlike Churchill at the same age, Gladstone dominated so completely that he really was irreplaceable.

One reason for wanting to retire was the Queen, who did her best to make his life intolerable, writing him sometimes as many as six

responsibility of Government." It was a responsibility he accepted as part of the divine dispensation, but it was not one he was anxious to increase. He positively welcomed German ambitions in Africa ("I tell you I look with satisfaction, sympathy and joy upon the expansion of Germany in these desert places of the earth") as tending to limit the opportunities for expansion of the British colonies.

His conversion to Irish Home Rule was a gradual elimination of alternatives, not a dramatic reversal. It was in intention not a radical but a conservative policy, the last resort of Gladstone's mission to pacify Ireland and thus preserve the Union. Paradoxically, however, the great communicator of his age omitted to explain his thinking to the Liberal party until it was too late: the party split and the Bill fell.

This historic failure "constituted" (Gladstone's own phrase) British politics for the next 30 years, preventing the development of an active state at just the moment it was needed to combat the onset of Britain's relative economic decline. Yet ironically no one welcomed this result more thoroughly than Gladstone. As a good Victorian he believed in the minimal state. His Governments knew more about the Egyptian economy than they did about the British. Yet at the same time he understood with penetrating clarity the entrenched power of privilege in British politics. His speeches can still astonish by their social radicalism and sheer moral force.

It is no wonder that an enterprising Tory manufacturer responded to the craze for Gladstone plates and Toby jugs with a chamber pot decorated with his picture — on the inside.

One of the pleasures of reading poetry is the way it sharpens our sense of words by using them to the full depth and stretch of their meaning. The word which surprises but seems somehow to "fit", setting up echoes of absolute meaning in the mind, is the right word. Thus, when Shakespeare has Laertes tell Ophelia that nature, crescent, does not grow alone/ In thwigs and barks, we feel the full power of that odd perfect word *crescent*, holding as it does memory of its Latin origin in *crescere*, to grow, to mature physically; and when Emily Dickinson writes:

*Essential oils are wrong:
The altar from the rose
Is not expressed by suns alone,
It is the gift of screws*

the abstract verb expressed has been given back its metaphorical root-richness, its verbal action, in the sense of "pressed out".

This sort of intense linguistic accuracy is, at best, the natural working of poetic thought; in the state of inspiration a poet inhabits words, means what he says to the point where he lives in his saying. Wallace Stevens has a poem about it called "Dinner Bell in the Woods":

*He was facing phantasmas when
The bell rang.
The picnic of children came
Running then,
In a burst of shouts, under the
trees*

A poet of the heart

POETRY
Robert Nye

OPUS POSTHUMOUS
By Wallace Stevens
Faber, £27.50

*And through the air. The smaller ones
Came tinkling on the grass to the table
Where the fattest women belled
The glass.
The point of it was the way he
heard it,
In the green, outside the door of
phantasmas.*

A poet with that kind of critical insight into his own workings is likely to write a very hard, spare, chaste poetry, a poetry from which most imperfections of language and immaturities of feeling have been burned away, a poetry which questions itself dryly as it goes on. Stevens's greatest work does not

disappoint that expectation, though I confess to preferring his shorter and fleshier poems, largely the product of his early years, over those long philosophical meditations he produced when the erotic drive of such a volume as *Harmolium* (1923) was long spent.

Opus Posthumous, now offered in a revised, enlarged, and corrected edition, edited by Milton J. Bates, should not be missed by anyone who has ever responded to such poems as "The Emperor of Ice Cream" or "Dance of the Macabre Mice". This book was first published two years after the poet's death, in 1957, and some of the early fragments are at least as good as most of the stuff in his monumental *Collected Poems*. For the new edition, Professor Bates has assembled virtually all the uncollected verse and prose that Stevens wrote for publication after his Harvard years, together with more than three dozen pieces still in manuscript at the time of his death. Stevens emerges from the volume as what his admirers have long known he was: a witty poet of the human heart. He sometimes submits his experience of love too consciously to his intelligence — not, like Donne, in passionate immediacy of wit, but rather pedantically, as one who would avoid the mixedness of his feelings by referring them to philosophical process. Then the result is more arid than austere. But the best of him hears that dinner bell in the woods, and makes us hear it.

A squirrel's collected works

FOR CHILDREN
Brian Alderson

CRACK A STORY
By Susan Price
Illustrated by Patrick Lynch
Faber, £7.99

and Paul and the Virgin Mary herself. The backchat has all the zest with which even squirrels may

crack a story: "Oh, you smug so-and-so! My old man might not have lived a good life, but I'll tell you this, he was *born* a Christian, not like some folk I could mention! He never spent any of his time persecuting innocent folk for being Christians! No! He might have strayed from the path, but he didn't have to be blinded before he could see where it was!"

Here, and for all the other tales, Patrick Lynch supplies a stylish introductory pen-drawing.



Women to the rescue again: from *The Well at the World's End*

How

Peter Ackroyd looks
and the woman who

The fate of the true poet is a hard one, at least according to T. S. Eliot. Robert Graves is perhaps one of the best examples on record of a writer who came close to immolating himself on the altar of his art — a suicide attempt, nervous prostration, and spiritual desolation were only aspects of his slow pilgrimage towards self-fulfilment. This second volume of his biography opens with the young Graves about to sail for Egypt in order to take up an appointment as professor of English; it ends with the prospect of a second and happier marriage. In between, there was Laura Riding.

She had travelled to Egypt with him as a secretary, in the company of his wife and children. But she herself was a fine poet and did not remain for long in that attendant role: the history of this volume is the history of her long, complicated, but ultimately fruitful relationship with the man who would eventually write *The White Goddess* in oblique homage to her profound influence upon his development as a writer.

From Egypt they all quickly returned to England, where the resulting ménage had the glamour and strangeness of a household unit among the damp and gloomy civilisations of St Peter's Square, Hammersmith. That is no doubt one of the reasons why eventually Graves and Riding left for Majorca, on which island they quickly established themselves. Of course, various disciples descended upon them, and this biographer gives the impression that the assorted cottages within the boundaries of the Graves-Riding domain were on occasions filled with highly strung people who delighted in nothing so much as practising on each other's nerves. So many "circles" and "inner circles", as before in England, that the prospect must have been dizzying.

Graves left Majorca at the time

Why is England different from her continental neighbours? The reality of profound differences used to be taken for granted; yet since the late 1970s historians have been discovering ways in which England before the 19th century was much more similar than we thought: in demography, property law, social structure, war, political ideology, elite hegemony. A more accurate account of the contrasts has really highlighted the much larger grass-roots similarities.

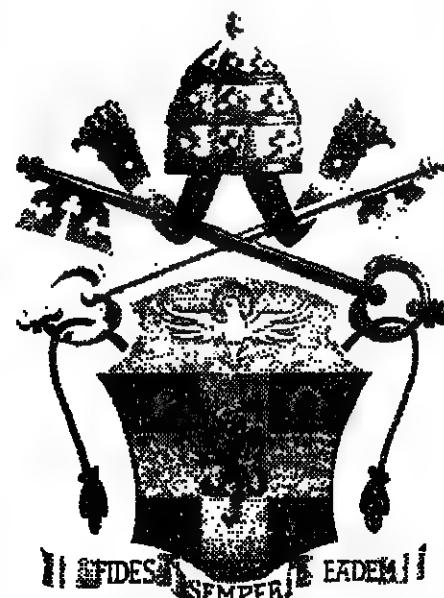
Yet we know instinctively that something is missing from these accounts. In the 19th and 20th centuries, continental Europe was swept by grandiose ideologies and, after their exhaustion, is hurrying towards anti-nationalist federalism. England, by contrast, was largely unmoved by these ideologies, and still retains a stubborn patriotism. If so many things were so similar, whence came this enormous difference of mood?

Some, like Lord Annon, put it down to *The Curious Strength of Positivism in English Political Thought*; but positivism was itself one of the grand continental sys-

'A thrill from start to finish — we may here be reading tomorrow's newspapers today.'

Daily Mail

MORRIS
WEST



LAZARUS

from the author of *The Shoes of the Fisherman*, the thrilling conclusion to the Vatican Trilogy

Out now!

WILLIAM HEINEMANN

The coarse art of cocking a snook

Tim Heald

NOBODY HURT IN
SMALL EARTHQUAKE
By Michael Green
Heinemann, £13.95

HERE'S a coarse fellow. Rugby. Sailing. Acting. Golf. Drinking. even Sex. You name it and Green's coarsened it. Here in a second volume of autobiography, where a chap really ought to write seriously, even portentously, he spends all his time being coarse. He's even coarse about the fine old art of provincial court reporting, suggesting about what was known to the young reporters of the *Northamptonshire Chronicle* and *Echo* in the Forties as "The Abominable Crime".

Men would return from the Assizes, and when asked what had happened they would respond: "Oh, only a criminal assault and a couple of abominable crimes." Green thinks the high incidence of abominable crime was due to Northants being an agricultural county, where the main form of transport available to farm labourers was the bicycle. In court the charge would be read in awe-inspiring and starkly explicit language which went something like this: "That you did commit and perpetrate the abominable crime, to wit buggery, with a sheep, the property of Thos Hardcastle, at Guilsborough, on April 1st 1948."

It is not quite clear how the sub-editors of the *Chronicle* and *Echo* rendered such reports acceptable to their family readership, but it afforded the newsroom a deal of amusement. And it gives you a fair idea of the flavour of this entertaining, self-deprecatory, and irredeemably coarse volume.

Not a lot happens. Green lives in tatty digs, rides a clapped-out motorbike to play rugby with a team called Leicester Thursday, and has trouble with girls. He also drinks a lot of beer. His ambitions at that early stage in his life were to be a "Writer", and to get to what was then Fleet Street, Fleet Street, namely the now defunct and unlamented *Daily Star*, was a considerable anti-climax. Nurtured on Philip Gibbs's *Street of Adventure*, he was expecting glamour and

excitement. Instead he found himself writing headlines such as "Drama of Worthing Beach Riddle" to go on top of a story about a pair of trousers discovered on the Sussex sands.

Inevitably this palls, and with a mad flourish he types out his notice: "I was going to abandon journalism and become a 'Writer'. I would finish the Great British Novel and... well something at any rate. I would never, ever, work on the staff of a newspaper again, or anyone's staff come to that. I would be a free man." These noble sentiments cut little ice with his awful deputy editor, who expressed scepticism about Green's ability to hack a living in the outside world.

"Don't worry," said our hero, huffily, "I shan't ask for my job back." "You wouldn't get it," Green records the beast as saying. "I made a mental resolve," he says, "to put him in a book some time. This desire to gain revenge by putting people in a book has haunted me over the years."

I know the feeling. It is, I suspect, universal among the self-employed, and certainly among self-employed scribes. Here is a man with a proper contempt for all who drive desks, edit or own papers, and seek to interfere with your life or your copy. Instead he has made a career out of being his own man, savouring the good and the coarse things of life, rollicking along, and to the fury of people who keep regular hours and wear suits, having a whale of a time cocking a snook at them. This is a lovely book by a fully paid-up member of the Awkward Squad. Britain cannot be quite as ghastly as it sometimes seems if free spirits like this are at large.

One of the pleasures of buying a sleek new paperback is its up-to-date air. You feel you are acquiring the latest thing in letters. But paperbacks are often at their best as a means of getting your hands on what's already happened — sometimes rather a long time ago. All the Conspirators, Christopher Isherwood's first novel, was first published in 1928, when he was 23. The book is, as a wise Isherwood recognized in a wonderfully shrewd introduction dating from 1957, full of a young man's brash bravura. The old are the enemy. Philip, self-conscious and ineffective, is forced to work as a clerk by his manipulative mother. Longing to be a brilliant painter (or a profound writer, he can't make his mind up), he loathes suburbia and all it stands for. The novel is a preposterous escape story which has accidentally become a piece of literary history. But the zest of its resentment and aspiration has worn well, and as a way of learning about the adolescent energies that lay behind a good deal of fashionable literature in the Thirties the book is to be relished. Carlos Fuentes's *Aura* (Deutsch, £4.95) was first published in Spanish in 1962, and the distinction of

Freshly minted literary history

FICTION
Dinah Birch

ALL THE CONSPIRATORS
By Christopher Isherwood
Minerva, £3.99

his subsequent career makes it another piece of literary history. This is acknowledged in an appendix ("How I wrote *Aura*") half as long as the novella itself, in which Fuentes proposes a long and self-dignifying ancestry for his story, reaching back into the earliest origins of Chinese literature. But the clearest influence to be discerned in Fuentes's gloomy and spectral tale of perverted magic is that of American Gothic, from Poe to the horror movie. This is an old-fashioned ghost story, and a good one — though at £4.95 for 57 pages its frissons come rather expensive.

Marguerite Duras published *The Vice-Consul* (Flamingo, £3.95) in 1966. Set among the jungles and colonial residences of Asia, it is a

story of uncomprehending misery and isolation. Duras's point is that the white expatriates cannot insulate themselves from suffering. *The Vice-Consul* juxtaposes the situation of a disgraced diplomat exiled in Calcutta with that of a crazed beggar woman who has wandered into India from Cambodia. But the story of the outcast woman, recounted with stark intensity, shrinks the uneasy experiences of the diplomatic community into pettiness. Destitution and hunger are what make this a haunting book, not the refined discontents of civilization.

Eva Figes's *Light* (Flamingo, £3.50) is a much more comforting read. The book recounts a day in the life of Monet and his family in

Double helping of delights for t

Lynne Truss

WOMAN'S HOUR BOOK
OF SHORT STORIES
Selected and edited by Pat
McLoughlin

BBC Books, £4.99
BBC Radio Collection, £5.99
(two cassettes)

THE broad theme of this splendid collection, which is available both in paperback and on cassette, is love, and the standard of the stories is very high indeed. All are by women writers from this century, with an Elizabeth Bowen story ("The Needlecase") alongside a Deborah Moggach and a Shena McKay. All but three are read by women, too, the most excellent readings coming from Polly James ("Lychees for Tonia") by Jane Gardam, Margaret Tyack ("An Act of Reparation") by Sylvia Townsend Warner, and Maria Aitken ("The Lost Chapel Picnic") by Margery Sharp.

Indeed, Margery Sharp is the find of the collection. Her story, about an annual bicycle outing which "always took place in rain" — and which family members used as "a

wonderful testing-ground for the current objects of our affections" — is witty and exact. It gets warmer and funnier each time you hear it.

All the humour in this collection is subtle, subversive, and breathtakingly precise. In Deborah Moggach's "Vacant Possession", for example, the female estate-agent narrator does not realize she is falling in love with a client until, showing a prospective buyer around his house, she notes that there has been an overnight companion in his bedroom: "The people wanted to know if the blinds went with the house. I answered

them, gazing at the bed. Beside it were two glasses and a half-empty bottle of G&P dos. And... a Maggie Thatcher candle, burnt down to a point of sloping shoulders. She must have been important, for him to have burnt his candle."

Sylvia Townsend Warner's story, too, is a perfectly judged tale, in which a chance encounter, brings together the first and second wives of Fenton Hardcastle. The first wife, Lois, feels wretched when she meets the silly young woman who has supplanted her in Fenton's affections — but not for the usual

BOOKS

A voice was brought from the Graves

as Volume Two of the poet's biography, which helped guide him to his lyric genius

of the Spanish Civil War, and did not return for another 10 years. When he and Riding came back to London, some of the intimacy between them seems to have vanished along with the spell of the island itself. Nevertheless, they remained prominent literary figures throughout the Thirties (this volume ends in 1940), even though their erstwhile "exile" in Majorca only emphasized how much they remained outside the establishment. The fact that Graves had written excellent poetry as well as *Claudius*, quite apart from *Goodbye to All That*, made him in any case hard to categorize.

ROBERT GRAVES
The Years With Laura
By Richard Perceval Graves
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25

After some vague European wanderings, they made their way to the United States in the spring of 1939; but it was only the prelude to the final separation of the two writers. But who could say that it had not been an immensely significant collaboration? Graves had begun his life with her in a state of uncertainty and panic, which left him on several occasions close to breakdown; but at the end of their relationship he was as fulfilled in this art as he was soon to be in his life.

The point is that, on the evidence of this biography, Robert Graves always seemed somehow to be lost in the world. He was always muddling through, bewildered and unhappy, until he met Laura Riding; there is no doubt that he needed her guidance. And although there are occasions when this biographer seems more kind to Graves than to Riding, it is really Graves who emerges here as the least sympathetic of the two — there were times when he was too self-concerned, too self-defensive.

And yet out of the muddle and chaos of his interior life emerged the true poetic voice. He was perhaps the best English lyricist of the century — even if, in search of his destiny, he left familial unhappiness in his wake. And is it not absurd to imagine, after all, that a good poet need necessarily be a good man (even if we were foolish enough to attempt to define "good" in either instance)? Richard Perceval Graves does not raise such questions, although his book has the merit of suggesting them. It is cogently and gracefully written, and in fact it is in almost every respect an improvement upon its predecessor — although Mr Graves has once again taken his position as a member of the poet's family a little too seriously. Of course he has had the great advantage of access to family documents that have hitherto been unpublished, but it cannot be said that the ruminations of the Graves clan on this or that aspect of affairs always make for fascinating reading. It is also perhaps a mistake to suggest that Robert Graves's adaptation of *David Copperfield* "is far more accessible to a modern audience than the original".

But enough said on that score: at the centre of this volume is an extraordinary relationship, quite the most interesting literary collaboration of the century, and Richard Perceval Graves handles it with great tact and sympathy. It must have been a hard book to write, not least because some of the protagonists are still alive, but Mr Graves has learnt the great lesson of biography: to understand rather than to judge. And what of Robert Graves himself? Despite all the evidence gathered here, he remains something of an enigma. A great poet undoubtedly, who, although he remained all his life outside the mainstream, has left his mark on English literature. And for that, too, a portion of thanks should be offered to Laura Riding herself.



William Jackson

Yesterday's men in particular

Jonathan Clark

THE ENGLISH HISTORICAL TRADITION SINCE 1850
By Christopher Parker
John Donald, Edinburgh, £20

terms, never naturalized here. Others said that the English were deeply untheoretical, so confining to high culture England's astonishing gallery of theorists, from William of Ockham to Keynes. Christopher Parker has a much better idea. He sees the special place that history has played in English intellectual life since Macaulay, and he finds its role essentially captured in Aristotle's *Poetics*: "Poetry speaks more of universals, history of particulars."

So we have the features of English historiography which Parker claims as characteristic: "An empirical method, but a rejection of scientific principles and a belief in historical method *sui generis*; a liberal and individualist approach, based on a belief in free will and moral responsibility; the nation as the prime generic concept; developmental and optimistic; and Christian." These, he believes, sustained the powerful individualism of English historical writing from Stubbs to Elton, a sceptical cast of mind

that has been a powerful solvent of metaphysical ideologies. But exactly this individualism, argues Parker, has prevented English historians from seeing that their own methods themselves amounted to an ideology. Consequently, English history in its individualistic forms has been as patriotic as it has been lacking in self-awareness.

So English historians hardly ever wrote about their own discipline. When they did, they discovered that their 16th and 17th-century predecessors had been locked in political controversy, and profoundly committed for sophisticated reasons to a nation, a dynasty, or a church. Yet 20th-

century scholars tended to become indignant if it was suggested that their methods, too, had their origins and their consequences.

Indignation is a powerful weapon. With it, the English empiricists saw off the continental system-builders: Comte, Hegel, Marx, Croce, Treitschke, Braudel. The best English historians, by contrast, have been superbly negative and slashingly reductionist, ripping down airy continental nonsense with sharp, scholarly hooks.

This was not done easily or without controversy. On the contrary, it was bitterly fought at every step, by other historians who had a quite different vision of the nature of their subject, both as scholarship and as public doctrine. It is these debates that are the subject of Parker's perceptive and illuminating study.

If this book has a fault, it is to credit its subjects with being more theoretical than they were, and more hard-headed. Poetry may be antithetical to history, but many

English historians sold out to poetry. Carlyle rejected the technical scholar, Dryasdust, and claimed: "History after all is the true poetry." Trevelyan went further and subverted the scholarly ideal: "Dryasdust at bottom is a poet... truth is the criterion of historical study; but its impelling motive is poetic."

Parker is enthusiastic about the influence of the social sciences on history since the 1960s; he is warm towards fellow-travellers such as E.H. Carr, and such spokesmen of "the optimistic, progressive liberal presence" as J.H. Plumb. He is evidently hostile to Christians (Butterfield), conservatives (Cowell), idealists (Oakeshott), anti-historicists (Popper), anti-Postitivists ("that terrible individualist", Hayek) and professionals (Elton). But this only means that the book tails off inconclusively in the mid-1970s, unable to grasp why so many applicants, historical as well as political, have been upset since 1979. As with other sorts of history, the study of historical writing itself is only credible if the trail leads us to the point at which we now stand.

The Blitz saga goes rumbling on

William Jackson

THE BLITZ Then and Now Volume 3 THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN Then and Now Mark 5
Edited by Winston G. Ramsey
Battle of Britain Prints International, £39.95 each

THESE two very fine memorial-cum-reference books about the German Blitz and the Battle of Britain will appeal to three groups of people. Memories — some proud, some nostalgic, and some sad — will be refreshed for those who took part in these events half a century ago. Families of those killed will find solace in them. And succeeding generations, who knew nothing of the war, will enjoy browsing through them. This is the third volume of *Blitz*, and the fifth up-date of the *Battle of Britain*.

Winston Ramsey uses the same general format as he developed in his very successful *After the Battle* magazine series — a chronology of events backed by photographic comparisons of then and now, eyewitness accounts, and explanatory treatises by experts. But there are two major differences between these two books and the magazines: their size and scope is very much more ambitious; and they are written in memoriam to the

146,777 civilians who died in the Blitz on the ground, and to 1,503 of the few who were killed in air combat overhead or on the airfields by enemy action.

In the first half of Volume 3 of *The Blitz*, Ramsey covers the *Baderer* or "revenge" raids on cities like Coventry, Norwich, and Canterbury, and the lesser known *Steinbock* raids — the so-called *Baby Blitz*; and in its second half, he deals with the V1, Doodlebug,

and V2, ballistic rocket, onslaughts on London and the south-east.

Both the British and German accounts are given, setting the struggle in true perspective. The German attacks after June 1941 were largely in retaliation for Bomber Command's mass bombing of major German cities.

In *The Battle of Britain*, Ramsey quite rightly makes no attempt to retell more than the outline of the battle; nor does he cover the German side of the story. He concentrates, first, on the RAF stations from which the battles were fought; and then he provides a day-to-day chronology of the battle, backed by personal accounts of the various incidents, and details of subsequent research into the loss of each aircraft.

A critic of an earlier edition remarked, "Never in the field of historical research has so much detail been lavished with such care on so few." His words apply even more aptly to this latest expanded Mark V edition.

PAPERBACKS

the garden at Giverny. "We live in a luminous cloud of changing light, a sort of envelope. That is what I have to catch." If such musings remind you of Virginia Woolf, you are spot on. *Light* is more of a celebration of Woolf than of Monet: a new version, in fact, of *To the Lighthouse*. Like Mr Ramsay, Monet is a patriarch, his creativity supported by a bevy of unhappy women. Figs has caught all the sharpness of Woolf's feminism. But Monet's insights are allowed to transcend his selfishness. As marriages are made and deaths approached, his painting creates a timeless harmony of light and dark.

Five Down Below (Faber, £3.90) concludes the outstanding maritime trilogy that William Golding began with *Rites of Passage* and *Close Quarters*. Edmund Talbot, the callow youth whose voyage to Australia has been a long and eventful moral education, finally and rather anti-climactically reaches dry land. But Edmund's doings were never really the point. Golding's imaginative commitment is to a self-contained world answering to laws as inexorable and precise as the forgotten procedures of 19th-century seamanship.

he senses

reasons of anger and jealousy. No, what Lois feels is guilt. In gaining her freedom, she realizes, she has passed her cross on to other, less able, shoulders. "Apparently it is impossible to commit the simplest act of selfishness, or self-defence even, without pain or inconvenience to others."

Should you buy book, cassette, or both? Well, the book contains a few stories not included on the cassettes, but on balance I would buy the cassettes. Sydney Smith once defined Heaven as "eating *pâté de foie gras* to the sound of trumpets", and the notion of gratifying several senses simultaneously has always seemed to me particularly sound. Opting for the cassettes means you can construct a modern version — eating gherkins to the sound of Maria Aiken.



Off the rails: the beautifully preserved Hellingly station, Sussex

Making fresh tracks

Alan Franks

RAILWAY WALKS GWR & SR
By Jeff Vinter
Alan Sutton, £9.95

OF ALL the hazards of planning a longish walk in the countryside around the cartography of the Ordnance Survey, none has been greater than this past quarter of a century than being beguiled by the romantic tracery of the disused railway line. For since the great closures of the branch lines in the 1960s, the snakes of land which sloughed off their rail-skins have had very varying fates. Some have passed from the British Rail Property Board into the ownership of local authorities; some have been bought by neighbouring farmers; some have been built over, and others left to the brambles. In just 30 years the embankment of a once tidily little service can seem thoroughly reclaimed by the landscape, and the line on the map becomes a record of the past.

When I saw that the chairman of the trackers' organization called Railway Ramblers had produced a guide to 10 branch-line walks, and that this volume was to be the first of a region-by-region series, my step lightened, for it plugs one of

the few real gaps remaining in current walking literature. Jeff Vinter has done the job on the empty beds of the Great Western Railway and Southern Region networks with splendid dedication. Here are the lines of the Cheddar Valley, the Forest of Dean, the Downs Link, and seven more, laid out before us in their alluring narrow vistas, complete with the circumnavigations we must make around the new obstructions.

The beauty of these walks, which Vinter breaks down into easily assimilable sections, is twofold. First, they have had remoteness thrust upon them by the passing of their original function: second, if the locomotives could handle the gradients, then so can you.

Tea for two, but without sympathy

THIS is not quite the usual straightforward tale of detection. There is murder and finally a police discovery by accident but, in the main, *Sheep's Clothing* is more of a strange and remarkable novel. It concerns two female former jailbirds. The elder is full of guile, and her junior partner is a much younger, rather soppy girl she befriended in prison.

Their technique is to follow an elderly lady who has just drawn her pension or looks as though she may have some money. With the address established, the pair, masquerading as social workers, obtain entry by waving an official-looking form, and announce they have come from the Social Security with great good news. The victim has been underpaid and her back pension

entitlement of hundreds of pounds or more will be forwarded after her visitors have taken some necessary details. The younger one volunteers to make tea, adding for the hostess some fast-acting sleeping powder. While she is asleep her visitors remove anything of value, including savings under the mattress.

All goes well until the younger one, once an intermittent, unenthusiastic prostitute, falls in love, and a victim is accidentally given a drug overdose. Exciting as well as satisfyingly written.

David M. Pierce's *Hear the Wind Blow* (Penguin, £2.99) features an American private eye, drug peddler and a murder. A deranged young refugee from Nicaragua, where he was cruelly tortured, lives illegally and well hidden deep in a state forest. Missing sheep start the hero on his inquiries. They involve him in getting beaten up, having a romantic affair on the side, discover-

ing a narcotics plantation concealed by surrounding trees, the grave of a murder victim, planting false evidence to ensure the conviction of the actual criminals. The writing, imitative of the great American practitioners' style of staccato tough-talking cops and villains, only just avoids grating. The plot is good and holds attention.

Geoff Nicholson tells the story of *The Knot Garden* (Hodder & Stoughton, £3.99) through several characters. It is cunningly woven, but I found it bemusing at the beginning. It grew on me the more I got stuck into it. A wife who no longer loves her husband is told how to investigate his death should this event be presented as a suicide in a place where he is not scheduled to be. A garden expert, he should have

been many miles away. There is sex, occasionally coarse, a disowned, inquisitive, illegitimate child, a great business tycoon and, of course, strangely fashioned gardens. Not at all bad.

The last but not least of this pleasing batch is Lillian Jackson Braun's *The Cat Who Saw Red* (Headline, £2.99). The Siamese cat is by way of being an amateur detective directing its owner, a newspaperman infuriated by being assigned to write a gourmet column, through signals not always easy to comprehend. The cat likes tapping messages on the typewriter but is far below the standard of a typing school. This cat and his female cohabitee share the life of the reporter. Both cats have an excellent line in body language, alerting their owner to clues which otherwise the slow-witted human would have missed. It is set in a provincial American town and I enjoyed it immensely.

CRIME
Woodrow Wyatt
SHEEP'S CLOTHING
By Celia Dale
Penguin, £2.99

Publication 5th April
THE BOOK YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

British Intelligence in the Second World War

VOLUME 4
Security and Counter Intelligence

F H Hinsley C A G Simkins

The latest volume in this definitive official history reviews the arguments about security policy regarding enemy aliens, fascists and Communists in the winter of 1939-40, and during the Fifth Column panic in the summer of 1940. The authors were given unrestricted access to the intelligence records for the inter-war years and the Second World War.

496 pages Hardback £15.95

The most important and intellectually satisfying, if not enjoyable, military book of the year.

William Jackson, writing in *The Times* about the previous volume in this series.

Coming in June — the final volume in the Series

Strategic Deception by Professor M E Howard

UNIVERSITY BOOKS

مكتبة الأصل

01-481 1920

01-481 1920

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

PURCELL ROOM
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

BARBICAN HALL

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

RAYMOND GURRAY presents

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

Just listen

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 7.30pm

THE ARTS

Just listen
by jingo

RADIO

Martin Cropper

ANTHONY Burgess's continuing campaign to register himself as the Dr Omnicious of Europe entered yet another plea with *European Culture: Does It Exist?* (Radio 3, Wednesday), a surely parodic title. Not once did he mention football, a true *lingua franca*. "Culture," here meant things dear to the heart of a pro-war provincial self-improver imbibing Sibelius from a cloistered crystal set; it meant, above all, the fantasy of a Culture Lake dispensing rivulets of pearls to grateful swineherds.

This led, inevitably, to a consideration of the medium in which he delivered his fresside chat, whose "unrivaled cultural significance" has long vanished. Radio, based necessarily on language, preserves those national distinctions which are eroded by the "internationalism" of film and television. To hope for anything further is paeia in the sky, even for a *bien-pensant* liberal humanist.

One wonders where Burgess would place *Victor Lewis-Smith* (Radio 1, Saturday). The sensibilities of the salon stand little chance in the company of "Dr Dreyfus, Britain's only Jewish one-fingered gynecologist," who professes his kippers "Yommed," or the boorish chirping of a taxi driver singing "Baby Let's A Big Horse (I'm A Londoner)".

Lewis-Smith's humour is constantly short-circuiting itself and treating ideas as clockwork toys to be wound up for the pleasure of seeing where they will fall. In this respect Lewis-Smith refers not so much to *Monty Python* as to the Bozo Dog Band at their apogee. He can also sing.

The new production of *Macbeth* at the London Coliseum might have surprised Verdi. John Higgins reports

Trouble, toil and typewriter



Your face, my theme, is as a book: Jonathan Summers (Macbeth) and Kristine Ciesinski (Lady Macbeth)

English National Opera's series of Verdi productions has become not so much a cycle as a Big Dipper, with musical highs and production lows. The pattern continues with the ENO's first *Macbeth*, which shows once again that the company's musical director, Mark Elder, is one of the finest Verdi conductors to be found around these shores.

The musical preparation for *Macbeth* has clearly been meticulous. Elder has gone for the version Verdi revised for Paris in 1865 and has been bold enough to include the ballet. Apart from some signs of tiredness in the final act the orchestra was close to top form. Elder excelled in the great choral ensembles, especially the end of Act I.

But then comes the little matter of David Pountney's production. This is enclosed by a series of moving black walls slashed with white paint, devised by Stefano Lazaridis. On top of one of them is a military charger. Pountney appears to see *Macbeth* as a nightmare of army tyranny, with the people (perhaps taking a cue from the chorus "Patria oppressa") as the drugged, jackboots and peaked caps abound. At the close, when Malcolm is crowned king, there is indication that one monster has been exchanged for another. As in *Boris Godunov*, the line of tyrants continues, and the populace trudges on.

All this is set in David Pountney's favourite period of post-war austerity, where everyone out of uniform wears the drabdest of clothes. Even Lady Macbeth goes to the kitchen sink to erase the blood from her hands

green blood) is a white-haired puppet neatly substituted on stage; the silvery line of future kings is properly unearthly.

The trouble comes when he has to deal with the everyday emotions and events of grand opera, such as greed, ambition, revenge and murder. Parts of this *Macbeth* are just plain perverse.

The assassins, despatched to deal with Banquo, drag up as suburban housewives. Banquo himself carries a battered portable typewriter, and the killing is watched by a number of tailor's dummies banked in a sylvan glade. It might all have been fun to invent, but the relevance is not exactly clear.

Twice within a week a volley of boos has greeted the production team at a Verdi first night, the other being at *Jerusalem* in Leeds. It is time Verdi was given an even break on stage.

Even more disturbing is the habit of making things difficult for the singers. Kristine Ciesinski as Lady Macbeth has to sing her opening aria from a bedstead (close fellow to that used by Mme Arvidson in the ENO's notorious *Ballo*) on a tiny platform nailed to the wall 15 feet above the stage. She sounded happier back at ground level. With her hair scraped back and with the lithe figure of a Martha Graham dancer, Ciesinski was a Lady Macbeth full of menace and devilry until the mind snaps, using rather more sweetness of voice than many in the part.

Her clear intelligence made Jonathan Summers in the title role look the bumbler in the family. Many years ago Summers gave us Verdi's 1847 version; since then his baritone has filled out enormously. He has no problems with the part, and plenty of volume left for Macbeth's aria in the last act.

John Connell, despite that battered old portable, makes a properly grave Banquo. Edward Barham's Macduff gives much more tenor weight than usual to his aria and is a villain in the making rather than a golden hero.

The ENO's *Macbeth* is as relevant to the action as it is, for instance, in *Vespre*. It was indifferently choreographed and performed by Second Stride. Mark Elder saved the day here. Once again, with his chorus and orchestra, he has emerged as the ENO's favourite son.

Twice within a week a volley of boos has greeted the production team at a Verdi first night, the other being at *Jerusalem* in Leeds. It is time Verdi was given an even break on stage.

Singer in
the pulpit

ROCK

Jasper Rees

Van Morrison
Wembley Arena

IN THE second number of a sprawling two-and-a-half hour show, a church steeple was projected on to the screen at the back of the stage, and the devotional tone was set. Van Morrison's fans nowadays form not so much audiences as congregations.

Morrison raced through the up-tempo songs - "Tore Down a la Rimbard", "Dweller on the Threshold" - as if he had to deliver another sermon elsewhere. After a bizarre version of Dylan's "Just Like a Woman", a sprightly "Did Ye Get Healed", a couple of ballads off the *Heartbeat* album he cut with the Chieftains, and the marathon meditation "Summer-time in England", he had only just warmed up.

At this point he made his first exit, which paved the way for a second coming, and indeed a third, fourth and fifth. Thereafter, he decelerated into the stately songs from more recent times. In "In The Garden" Morrison's lieutenant and organist George Fane sang the lyrics "No guru, no method, no teacher" and then added "except Van Morrison", presumably to return the compliment of being introduced as "The Reverend Fane".

Rendering the Them standard "Gloria", followed immediately by Johnny Kidd and the Pirates' "Shakin' All Over", the Celtic muso chorled uncontrollably. If only for the second half, this was an uplifting glimpse of the boy in him whom they call Van the Man.

The trickster as a supercilious café rat

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

The Last Days
of Don Juan

The Swan, Stratford

HERE is the root of one of the modern world's most potent legends. Molière's cynical outsider, Byron's romantic rebel, even the self-serving bachelor of Shaw's *Man and Superman*: all these Don Juans owe their being to the play a Spanish friar called Timoteo de Molina wrote around 1620.

Nick Dear's "new version" makes thirty free with Tiro's prototype, transforming his male Leporello into a grouchy female cook, survivor of a shipwreck involving the fleeing Don. He is

also at special pains to emphasize the hypocrisy of a "code of honour" in which it is worse to break a promise to sup with a gentleman than to deceive, abuse and ruin a woman.

Moreover, he makes it clear that the double standards in this world are not only sexual: clannishness and nepotism thrive, and help Juan escape discovery and punishment.

Yet his bed tricks and rural seductions still proceed to their punitive conclusion, one to which the cowardly Tiro gave a more overt religious significance than did his successor. His seducer's mistake is to tell a country bride he hopes God will punish any treachery on his part by sending "a terrible end at another man's hand", safeguarding himself with the aside, "providing he's deceased". There is, it seems, a barrier between divine mercy and justice, and Juan's blasphemy crashes it.

As Tiro creates him, Dear adapts him, and Linus Roache plays him, Juan turns out to be less complex than most of his descendants. No hint of psychological trauma, suppressed homosexuality, or even militant atheism. The Don is "a trickster of Seville", a sexual opportunist, a supercilious café rat who finds it amusing to scratch notches on his bedpost. Give him dark glasses, dangle a medalion down his chest, and he could be any narcissistic brat cruising the beaches of Rimini or Cannes.

As it happens, the magnificence in Danny Boyle's production wear period black. However, their conversation has been updated, perhaps too much. No doubt we find phrases like "shut up", "bloody stupid" and "don't muck about" enter on the ear than more formal stuff. Nevertheless, they tend to lighten and even trivialize what are, after all, life-and-death issues. Certainly, last night's audi-

ence titrated too often and pointlessly.

One of the gallants Juan impersonates is gratuitously played by Paterson Joseph as a posturing Hoorah Henry in canary yellow. Sylvester Morand's spectral Don Gonzalo loses half his terror when Juan reacts to his booming entrance with a facetious "I think someone's at the door" and "never seen a moving statue before".

Boyle's revival has its merits, not least that it has happened at all. An infant myth has been rescued from obscurity and directed with verve on a stage bare except for the red-streaked walls looming at the back, with windows like eyes cut into them. Moreover, it is energetically acted by Raymond Bowers, George Anton, Catherine White and others. The problem is that it is uneasily poised between comedy and theological threat, and nearer the former than the latter.

Carmina in close-up

CONCERT

Noël Goodwin

Philharmonia/Slatkin
Festival Hall

AT THE Festival Hall, critics are usually seated in a small but eminently self-important cluster halfway back. On Thursday, however, I was allotted a seat almost within sight-reading distance of the first violins' music, from where the Philharmonia sound was curiously claustrophobic in the stresses of Vaughan Williams's Sixth Symphony.

Of course, I could detect more of the inner detail, even against what seemed like a dominant weight of drums and low strings from the angle I heard them. But the occasional imprecision, the snatched note or the not-quite-togetherness, also registered.

Leonard Slatkin was demonstrating his sympathetic American's concern for the kind of English music that clearly appeals to his conducting sensibilities. Elements of the human spirit in turmoil were given largeness, breadth and dignity in this performance, as well as an appropriate tinge of mystery. If the Scherzo began as a scramble, before set-

ting into a more confident stride, it prefaced an Epilogue of quite desolate pathos.

Such a work should properly end a programme, so that we leave with its splendours, miseries and unresolved enigmas lingering in our ears. To follow it, even after an interval, with *Carmina Burana* was to risk the listener becoming merely irritated with the simplistic, rhythmic word-setting that should be part of its perennial appeal, not least for chorus masters. But the Philharmonia Chorus's director, Horst Neumann, had instilled vigour and discipline into his choir, as Michael Crabb had into the Southend Boys' Choir, so the mainstay of Orff's music was secure.

Slatkin did what he could to vary the rigidity of Orff's four-square patterns, though I was surprised he did not reduce the voices more for semi-chorus passages. James Bowman's counter-tenor emerged from a side box for his roasted-swan solo (which, I suppose, let him come and go without having to sit through all the rest), but Penelope Walton-Clark had to sit full-frontal for half-an-hour before singing a note. When she did, they were effectively phased, as were those from the amiable baritone of Anthony Michaels-Moore.

...wish they'd given
National Garden
Gift Tokens

- Choice of £1, £3, £5, £10 and £20 Tokens.
- Buy them at over 1,600 member Garden Centres, Shops and Nurseries nationwide.
- Spend them at the same 1,600 outlets on anything they sell - or at any of the UK's 2,500 Interflora Florists.
- Calorie free!

National GARDEN GIFT TOKENS
- the alternative Easter present
Ring (0734) 303998 for nearest stockist
Horticultural Trades Association, 19 High Street, Theale, Berks. RG7 5AH

Forgotten warrior for equality

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

CHRIS Mitchell's *Comrade Sak* (Channel 4) told the largely unknown story of Shapurji Saklatvala who, in 1924, became the first Indian communist to be elected to the House of Commons. A man of great ideals, he came from an extremely affluent background, was radically remade by racial intolerance, imprisoned during the General Strike for inciting soldiers to disobey orders, and finished up fighting Gandhi, for whom, in his daughter's view, he felt considerable personal jealousy and political animosity.

Mitchell's main problem was an almost total lack of archive footage relating to Sak. Though he did his best with interviews and extracts from the speeches read by an actor, there was still a sense of Hamlet without the Prince.

Sak was evidently a man torn apart by conflicts not only in the politics of Britain and India but

also by those in his own personality and background. Eventually refused a passport to the land of his birth, he ended his life lecturing in the Soviet Union and died a decade before India gained independence. He lives now most clearly in the recollections of a daughter, without whom Mitchell would not have had a programme. Thirty years on from *West Side Story*, according to last night's *Arena* (BBC 2), marauding gangs of gay black transvestites named after such rival fashion houses as Chanel and St Laurent are roaming the streets of New York, putting the fear of God into their mothers, if no one else. One mother was apparently so angry that her son had managed to grow breasts larger than her own that she recently burned his milk coat.

All of this could have provided worthy material, if not for a stage sequel to *La Cage aux Folles*, then at least for an inspired documentary. Unfortunately what came from *Arena* was a shambles: a film apparently bought in from American television stations and then heavily re-cut. It was still

unable to make any real sense of the problem, one it shared with its interviewees, most of whom were transvestite models in real difficulties with the English language.

"I want my name to be a household product," said one. One tried to imagine him rechristened Hoover or Harpic. Another had decided on a career plan to star "in all the media including both films and movies".

Seemingly not so much directed or produced as thrown together in an editing room during a commercial break, the film began to explore various local life stories, though naturally it left until last the only really intriguing one, that of a model who was murdered. Even here, typically, the programme-makers failed to complete the tale, or to interview anyone other than a friend of the deceased who had very little to say and still found great difficulty in saying it. All in all, an undisciplined and aimless programme. The same, perhaps, could be said of the lives of its participants, but someone could have done them the honour of a structured survey.

Held for questioning

Jeremy Kingston

Being at Home
with Claude
King's Head

WHEN a play's climax is a frenetic recollection of an orgasm, it may seem aptly metaphorical to make the preceding scenes long and full of delays and scattered with sexy talk. The risk is that the audience becomes impatient and with all the preliminaries and starts to fidget.

The Montreal author René Daniel Dubois sets his play in a judge's office early one Monday morning. All night an Inspector has been questioning Yves, played by Lothaire Bluteau (recently the lead in the film *Jesus of Montreal*), about his relationship with Claude, whose body has been found with its throat slit. Yves phones the police to report the murder, accuses himself and insists on seeing in this particular judge's office. Why, asks the inspector, speaking for us all, was the murder committed?

Yves refuses to say. The police discover from other sources that he is a male prostitute, and that Claude was his lover, not a client. Still Yves says he will not talk

until the judge appears. Since a glance at the cast list reveals that the judge will make no appearance, the delay is evidently intended to build up curiosity and tension.

For some time the trick works. Hints of the corruption, sexual and financial, existing throughout the community, gives Montreal the air of a steamy Chandler city - and David Howey's Inspector flashes something like Bogart's toothy, humourless smile.

But the author's long postponement of the dénouement causes us to feel that, under Rob Mulholland's direction, the glowering Bluteau has struck his head against the linenfold panelling enough times. What else can he do?

He shows us in the last 20 minutes. Describing his last meal and sex with Claude, Yves's delivery at first comes over as recital, not re-experience. But Bluteau then thrusts himself into emotional overdrive. Weeping, dribbling, sniffling, drenched with sweat, he becomes the character he has hitherto been playing. Separation between Bluteau and Yves no longer exists, so absolutely does the actor occupy the role. It is a dangerous absolute but, for connoisseurs of the dangerous, it is not to be missed.

MARYA
by Isaac Babel
adapted by Christopher Hampton
from a translation by Michael Glenny & Harold Shukman

"MARVELLOUS...
black marketeers plausibly
flourish, exhausted officials
interrogate their one-time
betters, princesses sell their
bodies, and mad things happen"

The Times

"FINE PERFORMANCES"
Financial Times

"The power of Babel...
vividly adapted by Christopher Hampton"

Daily Mail

SEVEN WEEKS ONLY!

THE OLD VIC
Box Office & cc
01 928 7616

DUNCAN C WELDON & JEROME MINSKOFF for Triumph Theatre Productions Ltd present

THE PETER HALL COMPANY
The WILD DUCK
by HENRIK IBSEN
A new translation by PETER HALL and INGA-STINA EWRANK

SYBIL ALLEN	CLYDE GATELL	ALEX JENNINGS	GRAFTON RADCLIFFE
IVAN BEAVIS	JOHN GILL	WALTER HALL	TERENCE HIGBY
MICHAEL BEVY	NICOLA GLICK	ALAN HAYWOOD	PETER ROCCA
FRANCES CUKA	JASPER JACOB	NICHOLA MCALLIFFE	WILLIAM SLEIGH
ALAN DOBIE	LEONIE JEFFRIES	MARIA NILES	DAVID THEREFALL

Directed by PETER HALL

Sets, Costumes & Lighting designed by JOHN BURY

Sound designed by PAUL ARDITTI

Executive Producer THELMA HOLY

POETIC, MOVING AND IRRESISTIBLY FUNNY. THE FIRST LONDON PRODUCTION OF IBSEN'S COMIC MASTERPIECE FOR TEN YEARS.

Box office (inc cc): 01-867 1044 PHOENIX THEATRE
Also cc (no bkg. fee): 01-497 9977/379 4444/ 741 9999 LONDON WC2
Groups: 01-240 7941

PREBOOKS FROM 10 MAY

RECORDS

The art of living dangerously

JAZZ UPDATE

Ella Fitzgerald The Intimate Ella (Verve CD-83888) Originally recorded for an unsuccessful 1960 film, "Let No Man Write My Epitaph", these intimate ballads find Ella in the discreet company of pianist Paul Smith. A stately contrast to the bustling orchestral sound of the Songbook albums.

Louis Armstrong & Duke Ellington The Complete Louis Armstrong & Duke Ellington Sessions (Roulette CDF-733842) The first and only time the two legends ever recorded together. Armstrong, the more assertive of the two, wades in to the Ellington compositions with unselfconscious ease.

Roll up for the mystical tour

JAZZ

Clive Davis

Brainstorm The Mystical Dreamer (In-Out Records CD-7006) Michel Petrucci's music (Blue Note CDF-73268) Humphrey Lyttelton Humphrey Lyttelton & His Band (Philips 838754)

Chico Freeman's annual residency at Ronnie Scott's has risked becoming a chore recently. The formula on most of his visits has been glib neo-bop, spiced with self-conscious references to the old masters.

If *The Mystical Dreamer* is anything to go by, however, the saxophonist's next season, which begins on Monday week, could well be more satisfying. An excursion into electric fusion, his quintet, Brainstorm, avoid most of the worst vices of the genre, playing with both intelligence and verve. On this live date - taped at the atmospheric New Morning club in Paris - Freeman's tenor playing is infused with a new warmth and depth, forsaking the usual all-purpose monochrome.

A cover version of Wayne Shorter's blues-based standard, "Footprints", exemplifies the group's strengths. Where Freeman would normally bark out the theme, he nudges it along with featherweight phrasing, cushioned by sensitive use of synthesizers. The production - surprisingly well-tuned for a live recording - maintains a balance between the band members, ensuring that percussionist Norman Hedman and drummer Archie Walker rarely swamp Freeman or keyboard player Delmar Brown. A collective composition, the title piece does tend to meander off-course over its 12 minutes. Other-

wise Freeman keeps a tight rein. Electronics also play their part in Michel Petrucci's *Blue Note* release. Usually a strictly acoustic player in the Bill Evans and Keith Jarrett mould, he has surrounded himself with synthesizers and organ, not to mention ethnic accessories in the vibrant shape of Tania Maria and percussionist Frank Colon, among others.

Most of the pianist's previous work has been in the chamber trio format, a style which he has just about exhausted. He is surely right to cast around for a new direction. *Music* tends to sag under the weight of its various influences, from bebop and Latin to pop, but the signs are that Petrucci is on the road to finding the right blend. All 10 compositions are originals, and tend to be functional rather than inspired. Let us hope that the sometimes patronizing publicity surrounding his disability - he suffers from a rare "glass bones" condition - does not place too much of a burden on him too soon.

Humphrey Lyttelton's compilation album arrives as part of a "Best Of Dixieland" series which includes Terry Lightfoot, Chris Barber and the Dutch Swing College Band. But do not be misled by the "Dixie Gold" logo on Lyttelton's collection. By the time of these sessions - dating from 1960 to 1963 - the trumpeter was well entrenched as a solid player of mainstream jazz. His distinguished saxophone section - Tony Coe, Joe Temperley and Jimmy Skidmore - is put through its paces on four of the tracks, skimming through "Things Ain't What They Used To Be" and "St. Louis Blues". Buck Clayton's collaboration with Lyttelton is documented on the Basie trumpeter's own piece, "Tam".

CLASSICAL

Stephen Pettitt

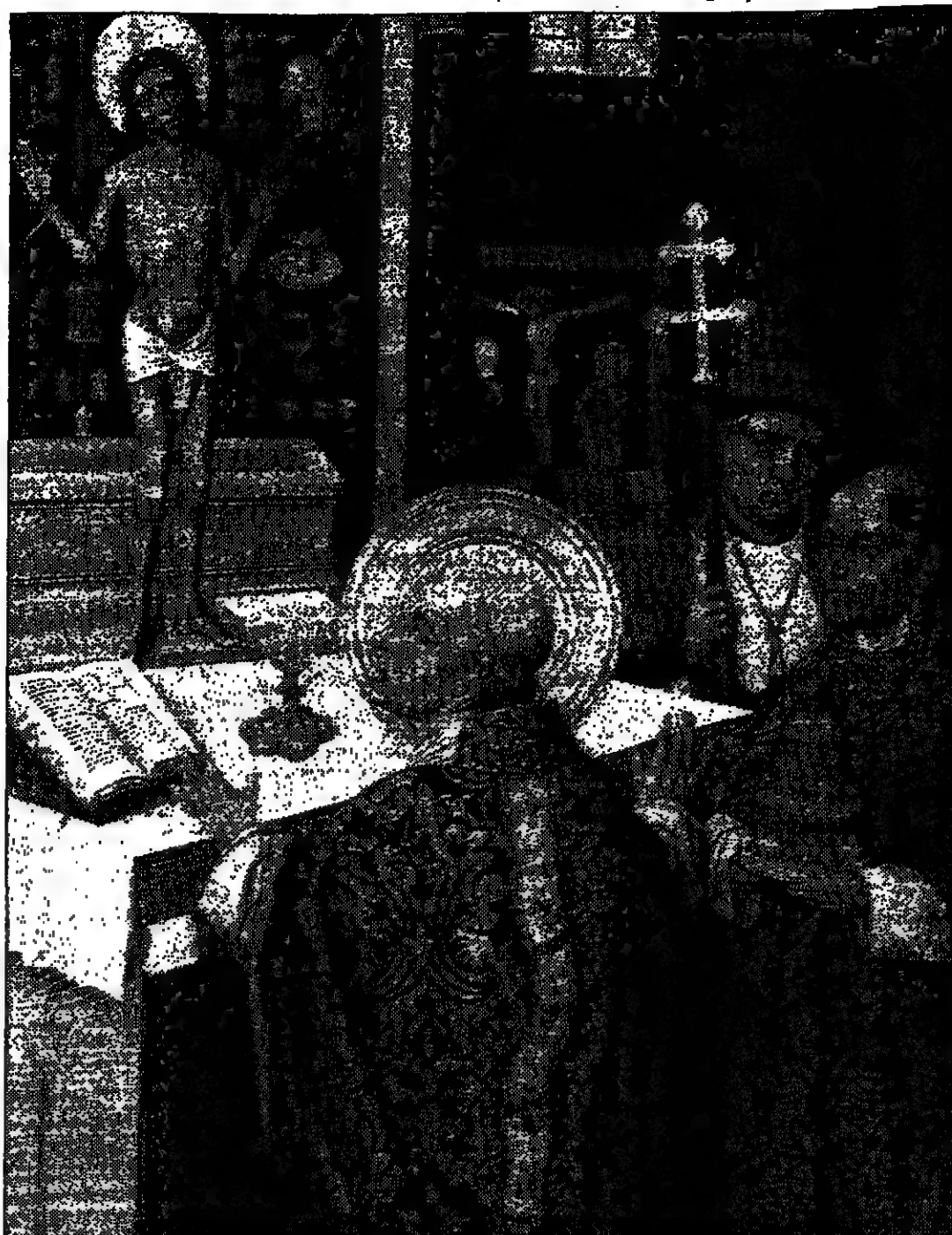
Bach: Mass in B minor (Smith/Chance/van der Meer/van der Kamp/Netherlands Chamber Choir/Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century/Bruggen (Philips 426 238-2) (2 compact discs) Bach: Magnificat/Cantata No 21 de Reghere/Jacobs/Prégardien/Like/Netherlands Chamber Choir/La Petite Bande/Kuijken (Virgin Classics Veritas VC 7 50779-2) (compact disc) Bach: The Art of Fugue (Gilbert (Harpsichord) (Deutsche Grammophon Archiv 427 673-2) (compact disc) Bach: Italian Concerto/Partitas Nos 4 and 6 (Weissenberg (piano) (Deutsche Grammophon 423 582-2) (compact disc)

Frans Bruggen and his Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, we are told, adhere to a strict policy of never making recordings unless they are of live performances. From the details printed with their discs of Bach's *Mass in B minor*, it remains unclear whether or not "live" in this instance really means the best takes from a number of concerts, with or without covering sessions incorporated, as is frequently the case. One suspects, since the date of recording is rather vaguely given as March 1989. It is high time that record companies came clean on this matter. Were they to do so, we would still be able to enjoy the sense of living dangerously, which is crucial to the success of any performance, and which you simply cannot obtain from a cold, straightforward recording session.

However many performances it came from, that essential keen-eyed feeling is certainly present in Bruggen's carefully considered and controlled reading, recorded in the Musikzentrum Vredenburg in Utrecht. His orchestra of period-style instruments are, as always, well equipped for the challenge, with confident, beautifully shaped obbligato-playing from oboe and violin, and, in the celebratory choruses, a resplendent trumpet section adding a fine garnish to orchestral playing of the highest order by any standards, baroque techniques or not.

The solo singing is less convincing. By far the most impressive of the quartet is the countertenor Michael Chance, who crowns the performance with a rich-toned, unburied Agnus Dei and who combines mellifluously with the soprano Jennifer Smith in both the "Christe eleison" and "Et in unum Dominum". Smith generally articulates elegantly, though I find her shade too light of voice for this music. More questionable are the lower two voices. Nico van der Meer is made to sound thin in tone, while Harry van der Kamp, despite the pleasing balance he achieves with the horn soloist, Kout Hasselman, in "Quoniam tu solus Sanctus", elsewhere seems distant and lacking in sheer power. Perhaps they are hampered by the balance of the recording, which elsewhere seems a touch improvisatory. More than once, for instance, the flutes leap from the sound stage almost as if we were back in the bad old days of deliberate "spot-mixing".

Meanwhile, contributing greatly to the refined drama of Bruggen's reading, the Netherlands Chamber Choir's singing is pure and crisply articulated, though there is a tendency sometimes to hurry in the faster choruses. Moreover, this choir lacks the sheer penetrating power of its English equivalents. Or this another problem created by the engineers? The disturbing squeeze-box dynamics of the Sanctus are obviously not their fault, but a rare misjudged mannerism on Bruggen's part.



Mass in B Minor: detail from the cover of the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century recording

The same choir joins forces with Sigiswald Kuijken's *La Petite Bande*, another illustrious team of period-style instrumentalists, in a new recording of Bach's *Magnificat*. Here the prevailing atmosphere, despite the small scale of the ensemble, tends towards the public rather than the intimate, with the solo singers, consisting of a sweet-voiced Greta de Reyghere, the rasping countertenor of René Jacobs, the sturdy tenor of Christoph Prégardien and Peter-

Lica's similarly reliable bass, cultivating a somewhat noble approach. But Kuijken's approach is relaxed and neat, and consequently his reading is neither charged with the dynamic neuroses of a Gardiner, nor understated as Hogwood sometimes is. That might lay him open to the accusation of falling between two stools, but for me the medium is a happy one, especially given the natural quality of the recording and the instrumentalists' sullen

blend. There is also a considerable bonus on this disc in the form of the extended Cantata No 21, "Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis", though again I feel the harshness of Jacobs' voice sometimes damages the balance in, for instance, a number like the ingenious "Sei nun wieder zufrieden", a combination of solo quartet, chorus and walking-bass, all united by a canny frisson of a chorale tune. But there is also some beautiful and delicate sing-

CLASSICAL UPDATE

Tallis: *Spem in alium*, etc. Winchester Cathedral Choir (Hyperion CDA 82400) A fine choice of Tallis's Latin settings, including the Lamentations and sundry motets besides the 40-voice spectacular, but the big star here is the majestic reverberation of Winchester Cathedral.

Palestrina: "Assumpta est Maria" and "Stabat Mater" masses. Tallis Scholars (Gimel CDGIM 020) Fine recording from practitioners of Renaissance polyphony, and a striking contrast: the six-part Assumption mass is a triumph of responding ensembles; "Stabat Mater" grows in a leaner manner.

ing, notably in the lovely duet for soprano and bass, "Komm mein Jesu, und erquicke". Again, the choir sings clearly and with meticulous articulation.

Two other discs contrast Bach played on the piano with Bach played on the harpsichord. Kenneth Gilbert's account of *The Art of Fugue* takes as its basis an earlier version of the piece which Christoph Wolff has created, using the evidence of Bach's handwriting and studies of the paper of the extant autograph. The main body of this source includes fewer numbers than the version eventually published in 1751, though each is a carefully prepared fair copy. Wolff (who also prepared the edition for Bruggen's *B minor Mass*) surmises that Bach worked on the cycle from perhaps even before 1740, and only later revised and expanded it, negating the common belief that the work dates from Bach's final three years.

What are actually recorded on the disc are 14 pieces, 10 figures (the last two of which are also played in their inverted forms) and a pair of canons. They are played in the order in which they appear in the autograph, which happens also to be in order of increasing contrapuntal complexity. The absences conveniently include the unfinished quadruple figure that presents such a problem in most performances. Gilbert's playing is, as always, expressively shaped yet architecturally sure and contrapuntally clear, while the sound of the instrument he plays, originally made by Jan Couchet in 1671, but subsequently enlarged by Blümler around 1759 and by Tassin in 1778, is ripe and sonorous. He rightly owns up to the necessary multi-tracking in the otherwise impractical last two figures and their inversions.

Alexis Weissenberg's piano recital, not unexpectedly, is quite different. Possibly under the impression that he is aping some kind of 18th-century style, Weissenberg opts for the brittle and brilliant approach, making a large, late 19th-century kind of sound (exacerbated by a clamy, close recording) so that his realizations of the *E minor* and *D major* Partitas and the subsequent *Italian Concerto* almost give the impression that Busoni had had a hand in them. There are admittedly quieter moments - the sarabandes of both suites are relaxed and poetic - and there is a certain thrill to be gained from his devilishly fast playing of the eccentrically syncopated Corrente in the Sixth Partita. But for the most part these performances seem superficial and hard, the antithesis of Gilbert's style and, for that matter, also that of an artist like Andras Schiff. Now there is a pianist who really understands Bach's music, and who knows how to translate it for his instrument.

From cloth caps to diamonds

SPOKEN WORD

Peter Davalle

Uncle Mort's North Country (BBC Radio Collection Z59C1105) Elizabeth Taylor, The Last Star (Collins Dove 000 1387480)

In the absence of a national monument to Peter Tinniswood's Uncle Mort, the muffled and cloth-capped Yorkshire misanthrope ("I can't stand the sun - it's such a bloody show-off"), these 10 tall tales, first heard on BBC radio, will have to do.

There are two miracles in Tinniswood's grittily comical world. How could Carter Brandon (Peter Skellern) ever have volunteered to take his Uncle Mort (Stephen Thorne) on his joyous day trips in the first place? And, with so much glib surrealism going on all around him, how could the storyteller (Christian Rodska) keep his face straight

enough to comment so poetically on spring days that are fitful and timid, and cities that fidget in the fat thighs of moorland hills?

And if you don't think this is evocative writing, how about the old comrades' club that smells of hollow chests and frayed trouser turn-ups?

Heavily statistical in terms of millions earned, fabulous gifts bestowed, men married and scandals launched, Kitty Kelley's life of Elizabeth Taylor has little space left over for literary style. Hence the sketch of the pre-teen star as a "housewife flower who blossomed before her season, artificially forced to spread its petals".

The writing improves a bit when we get to the Michael Wilding wedding, at which Ms Taylor "wore a dove-grey suit and he wore an air of surprise". Kelley's account of a life that is a dozen times larger than life is read by the American actress Susan Strasberg, who remains astonishingly unruffled by it all.

Sticking to vinyl

The chairman of Polygram, Britain's largest record company, has denied that the music industry is trying to hasten the demise of vinyl. His remarks followed the announcement that vinyl album sales slumped by 30 per cent last year, and rumours that at least one major retail chain was stocking only cassettes and compact discs by 1995.

"Vinyl will be around for as long as people want to buy enough of it," says Maurice Oberstein of Polygram. "There's no plot to make the LP obsolete. In fact we're currently re-issuing back catalogue items by some of our biggest artists. We're simply responding to what the shops want."

At the same time, the CD market shows enormous potential. Last year sales increased by 43 per cent, despite the fact that only 16 per cent of British homes have CD players (95 per cent own a traditional turntable).

Classical fans are among the most aggrieved about the CD onslaught, partly because many classical recordings are now available only on compact disc, but also because the digitally recorded sound of CD is more sterile than that of vinyl.

"I think the next generation of CD players should solve that," Oberstein says. "Compact disc machines have useful facilities, such as being able to play a symphony all the way through without having to stop and turn it over."

about the predicament of those collectors with thousands of vinyl albums. "I can't remember that sort of comment being made when we moved from 78s to LPs, or from mono to stereo," he says. "It's just the next generation of sound carrier."

Three weeks ago, *The Times* pointed out that record companies may underestimate the amount of back catalogue material they were selling on CD. In other words, if a large percentage of the market consisted of consumers over the age of 40 replacing their scratched Beatles and Rolling Stones albums with the same titles on CD, perhaps there was less demand for CDs of newer artists than the industry realized.

Surprisingly, none of the major record companies, nor the British photographic industry which represents them, nor Gallup which compiles the charts, could supply data showing what percentage of CD sales are new recordings.

"I've never even thought about it," Oberstein says. "But it is not the sound carrier which matters so much as the sound itself. Record companies are in the business of developing artists and selling their music, whether that music is on CD, cassette, vinyl, or whatever."

"We have no plot for a technological revolution just because a new carrier has come of age. In the future DAT (Digital Audio Tape) may take over from the cassette. But at the end of the day, it is the customers who decide."

Mike Nicholls

ROCK UPDATE

They Might Be Giants Flood (Elektra 560 907-1) Brooklyn duo of John Flansburgh and John Linnell enjoying the just desserts of their Top 10 hit "Birthhouse in Your Soul". The album is a similarly hyperactive combination of harmony pop, vaudeville, lightweight rock 'n' roll and novelty in the tradition of wacky American individualists.

Richard Thompson, Clive Gregson & Christine Collister and others Hard Cash (Special Delivery SPGD 1027) Witty folk-rock compilation of material commissioned for a forthcoming television series on the theme of exploitation in the workplace. Produced by Richard Thompson and featuring new performances from such stalwarts as the Waterstones, Dave Kelly and Martin Carthy.

The B2's Cosmic Thing (Reprise 825 854-1) Following a pattern established by Sam Brown and Del Amitri, the B2's come crashing into the chart with *Cosmic Thing* almost a year after its release, thanks to the recent success of the "Love Shack" single taken from it. The album strikes a satisfying balance between good fun and good looks.

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 24 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a bin by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

JOHN LEE HOOKER

Now a blues "great" reaches a certain seniority, both his reputation and his pattern of record sales tend to become cast in stone. Not so 69-year-old John Lee Hooker, whose enthralling 1989 album, *The Healer*, was one of the most successful of his 42-year recording career and the first to make the UK chart since *House Of The Blues* in 1967. The only survivor of the original blues guitar masters, who migrated from the rural South to the urban North in the Forties, Hooker applied the idiosyncratic timing and jangly, percussive technique of the acoustic country blues to the harsh electric boogie styles that were forged in the cities. His best songs - "Dimples", "Boogie Chillin'", "Boom Boom", "I'm In The Mood" - are all on *Boogie Chillin'*, a 1986 compilation on the Charly R & B label. Of the re-releases in the wake of *The Healer*, Ace's two-in-one CD set, *That's My Story/The Folk Blues* of John Lee Hooker, focuses on his acoustic roots, while *The Detroit Lion* (Damon) resurrects the early magic of his very earliest recordings.

THE LEAGUE



Strategist Phil Oakley

The Human League were the first synth-pop superstars, in October 1981, well ahead of Eurythmics, Depeche Mode, Yazoo, or the Thompson Twins, who soared to the top of the UK chart with the pop classic "Bang" from the album *Love Action*. "Open Your Heart" and the single "Don't You Want Me?", which was the biggest selling UK single of 1983 and a US No. 1 in 1982. Although lambasted with a distinct lack of musical ability and a hairdresser with a unique sense of rhythm, Phil Oakley was a canny strategist. Oakley recruited the vocalists and Susan Stanley as vocalists purely on the strength of their Sheffield disco, but he also took care to staff the band with professionals like Jo Cullen (vocals/guitarist) and to maintain a consistently high standard of melody no matter how sketchy and amateur the songs arrangements. "Mirror Man", "Fascination", "Human", "The Lebanon", "Being Boleed", and all the others are incorporated on the 1988 compilation *Greatest Hits*.

NEXT WEEK: INXS, Iron Maiden

£424 DISCOUNT!

Canon A1



£975

£1500 ON-THE-SPOT CREDIT!

Tecno

376 Euston Rd, NW1
22 Bedford Way, WC1
300 Ken High St, W14
24 Kensington Rd, SW3
Belfast
Birmingham
Bristol
Cardiff
Canterbury
Croydon
Exeter
Leeds
London
Manchester
Newcastle
Nottingham
Oxford
Reading
Sheffield
Southampton
Sunderland
Telford
Tottenham
Wolverhampton

GARDENING

Francesca
Greenoak tests a selection of models from the latest line in garden gadgetry: the prunings shredder

Gardens, like kitchens, attract mechanical gadgets, which proliferate in every corner of garden activity. The problem is that, for every person who reaps the benefits, there are several neighbours who have to put up with the racket, which usually accompanies the performance of horticultural aids. It is almost impossible to avoid: for the sake of peace on a beautiful afternoon, I was clipping the hedges with hand shears, rather enjoying the nostalgic click-clacking sound, when a neighbour, disquieted perhaps by the absence of noise, strode round to ask if he could borrow my electric trimmer.

Many machines, bought in the hope of dispelling drudgery, end up lingering rustily on a shed shelf. They cannot all claim to be labour-saving to the same degree. Despite the odd release into hand-shearing, I would not be without my electric hedge trimmers, which do a long job quickly and well. A mower is also a necessity for most gardens. Then there are trimmers and brush-cutters, chain saws, lawn spikers and leaf-vacuums, and those ride-on mowers which make the user look like a five-year-old with a new toy.

The latest mechanical device is the shredder, a giant-sized garden Magimix, which gulps down all your hedge clippings, twig prunings, wood stems and small branches into its voracious funnel and, after horrible banging and grunting, reduces them into a pile of neat shavings. This can be used as a (not terribly ornamental) mulch, or as raw material for the compost heap. The shredders are more compact and break down more easily than the material in its original state. An even better result is achieved if the shreddings are combined with weeds, grass mowings or other green or moist waste, which quickly works up to a good heat.

Though shredders have been available for a long time, they have recently been selling more vigorously, probably because of greater



Cutting up rough

concern about waste and a laudable desire to recycle as much as possible. They are, however, expensive, bulky and heavy on energy consumption. Curious to see if these claims were outweighed by their advantages, I borrowed four shredders of various capacities and prices and set to with piles of hedge clippings and general detritus.

First, I should say there is nothing like hands-on experience. The models which I thought I would get on well with turned out to be tough and jam on the materials I offered them: hawthorn cuttings, with some privet and box. Hawthorn is the worst; it makes a kind of thorn knitting which is extremely difficult and time-consuming to feed into the smaller machines. Hawthorn, blackthorn and pyracantha all have the extra disadvantage of ferocious thorns, which can pierce through shoes and almost any kind of glove.

The lower-powered machines might suit a smaller garden, with, say, a low privet hedge and a restricted amount of prunings and stemmy material. However, in such a garden space is at a premium, and

these machines have to be stored when not in use (which is most of the time). In any case, a limited amount of softer prunings will decompose quite quickly in a compost heap, while tough stems and roots can be squashed with a mallet. For small gardens, a shredder may be an expensive mistake.

It has more positive functions in middle-sized and larger gardens, especially those with sizeable hedges and areas of soft fruit and vegetables. My favourite model was the Al-Ko Silent Power, which took everything I offered it without much grumbling. It jammed only twice, and the single screw release knob for the funnel (which also acts as a safety cut-out switch) can be operated quickly and easily, the debris removed and the operation restarted without delay. (The other machines were much more fiddly.)

While calling it silent would be to stretch the imagination, it fell within my limits of tolerance, and it is good to see that at least one manufacturer is paying attention to this aspect of gardening, which must cause more distress and bad feeling

between neighbours than almost any other.

Although most manufacturers recommended wearing goggles while working with a shredder, none included them in the pack. For safety, the operator should wear a strong pair of gloves and goggles, and possibly ear muffs. A heavy-duty extension lead (fully extended) and a circuit breaker are also necessary, as there is a lot of power coursing through these machines. They are not designed for use with wet material or in the rain, but since a certain amount of detritus will be dampish and anyone can get caught out by a sudden downpour, electrical safety must be an important consideration.

The larger models have wheels which make them reasonably manoeuvrable. To move Silent Power you clip it by its funnel; it moves easily, and can be steered up a ramp into a shed or garage. After the machine has been fed the last bundle of material, it is best to let it run on for a short while to make sure everything has gone through, otherwise starting it again may be

WEEKEND TIPS

- Cover seedbeds and newly planted seedlings with net or fleece to protect them from cats, birds and light frosts.
- Don't delay if you haven't yet planted your onion sets or early potatoes.
- Take advantage of the good selection of water plants coming into garden centres, but don't put them in pools for a week or two if cold weather is forecast.
- Plant asparagus comes over the next few weeks.
- If you have any bare-rooted trees or bushes, plant them at once and water regularly until they have become established.

difficult. Keep a stiff brush handy, remove the funnel and make sure it is absolutely clean and dry before storing it.

It is a good idea to keep materials for shredding under shelter or covered with a tarpaulin, so that there is a reasonable amount of dry material to work on. If sappy material, such as green hedge trimmings, is mixed with drier material, the machine will clog up less often. Stones should be eliminated from the shredding material as far as possible, especially when attached to robust perennial weeds (which are better dealt with by being dried out and then pulverized).

Deciduous hedges should be greasing up nicely, and should not need attention unless you have previously neglected them. Unruly hedging should be given only a light trim, to cause as little disturbance as possible to nesting birds. Plants which do require clipping or pruning include the flowering evergreen Osmanthus delavayi. Overlong branches should be cut back later this month. Overgrown holly, yew and box hedging can also be clipped over the next week or two. Roses grown as hedges should be pruned now, if they have not already been tackled. Old branches of forsythia can be pruned out, cutting low down with a saw, and winter jasmine should have its flowering shoots cut back to two to three buds from the main branch. Mophead and lacecap hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) can have dead flowers and dead or weak shoots removed, and cut off old stems from lavender (the older wood should not be touched).

It is advisable to borrow or hire a machine before buying. The Al-Ko Silent Power, efficient and safe, sells at about £249. A smaller model, H1100, is about £125, but its wide funnel aperture allows a child's hand to go through and, like the Black & Decker 1050 (about £129), with a small, neat shed, it lacked a safety switch so the exposed blades can operate when the funnel is removed. The Allen Goblin (about £219) was safe but slow, and tended to clog on hawthorn.

OUTINGS

Blaze a trail

If you have the best part of the weekend to spare, you might like to take to the road and follow a trail devised by the Eden Tourism Action Programme in collaboration with English Heritage and a number of northern tourist boards. It traces the life and works of Lady Anne Clifford. She was born in Skipton Castle in 1590, which she left when she was 10 weeks old. She did not return until she was 60, when she set about restoring the family home after the Civil War. But this was only one of many buildings on which she was to have a great influence during the next 25 years, until her death in 1676.

She was the rightful heir to the estates of her father, the 3rd Earl of Cumberland, in Cumberland, Westmorland and Yorkshire, but it was not until 1643, when her cousin Henry died without heir, that she was able to claim her inheritance. The trail leads through beautiful countryside to the many buildings on which Lady Anne Clifford left her stamp. It can be obtained at tourist information centres in Skipton, Kirkby Stephen, Brough, Appleby, Penrith and at national park centres in the Yorkshire Dales.

THRIPLAW DAFFODIL WEEKEND: Masses of daffodils, historic buildings and gardens to be explored, and exhibition of arts and crafts, plus produce, plant and charity stalls. Refreshments. All proceeds to village amenities and the local hospital cancer scanner appeal. Thriplaw, Royston, Hertfordshire. Today, tomorrow from noon to 5pm. Admission to events £1.50.

HEVER CASTLE CASCADES: Roy Lancaster, author, broadcaster and horticulturalist, opens the newly restored cascades at 2.15pm today, and conducts two tours of the castle gardens at 11.30am and 3.30pm. Tickets limited (£2.50 each), issued on first come, first served basis. Hever Castle, Edenbridge, Kent (0732 885224). Today, Grounds open 11am, castle 12 noon. Last admission 5pm. Entrance to castle and grounds, adult £4, child £2.

BLANTYRE PARK HORSE SHOW: Showing of all kinds to raise money for two causes: the injured jockeys' fund and the Stoke Mandeville spinal unit. The Priory Equestrian Centre, Francham, near Farnham, Surrey. Today, early morning to late afternoon. Admission 25p per car or 25p pedestrians.

KENT PLOUGHING EVENT: Shires and vintage tractors give ploughing demonstrations throughout the day. Light lunches and cream teas.

Museum of Kent Rural Life, near Maidstone, Kent (0622 763936). Tomorrow 10am-4pm. Adult £1.50, child 75p.

ROYAL BRITAIN CHILDREN'S THEATRE CHESHAM: New attraction at the permanent exhibition is a theatre, exclusively for children, which will present a variety of shows during school holidays and half-term.

The first of these, opening today, is *Hot Cross Henry*, an Easter extravaganza. Royal Britain, Adersgate Street, London EC2. Today until April 22, daily at 2.30pm. Museum admission: adult £2.50, child five-15 £2.50, under-fives free. Family ticket - two adults plus up to four children - £10.

NEW FOREST DOLLS' HOUSES AND MINIATURES FAIR: Specialist show, primarily for collectors. All kinds of dolls' houses, scaled furnishings and fittings and inhabitants for sale. Also on display "the stars" charity house, a 1:12 scale model with eight different rooms designed by famous people, including Dame Judi Dench, Clement Freud, Emie Wise and Christopher Timothy.

Lyndhurst Park Hotel, High Street, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. Tomorrow 10.30am-4.30pm. Adult £1, accompanied child 50p.

THE GREAT YORKSHIRE PUDDING BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL: According to the organizers - and an ancient recipe - this celebrates the 243rd birthday of the world famous pudding. Plenty of fun and competitions - eat it, throw it, jump over it. Also pigeon racing, cloth cap hurling and a donkey polo match. Far Grange Caravan Park, Skipsa, Humberside. Today, tomorrow 10.45am onwards. Adult £1, accompanied child free.

DORSET COUNTY ANTIQUITIES FAIR: 50 dealers from all around the UK sell a wide range of antiques, including early English and country furniture and unusual agricultural and farming implements. Licensed bar and refreshments. Brynston School, near Blandford Forum, Dorset. Today, tomorrow 11am-5pm. Admission £2 includes catalogue.

Judy Froshaug

HOMES & GARDENS

Continued on next page

BRAND LEADERS FROM MOWER CITY AT BRAND NEW PRICES

18" VICTA-PACER
NOW ONLY £289

MOUNTFIELD EMPRESS 18" push roller
NOW ONLY £289

HAYTER HARRIER 219 19" roller propelled
NOW ONLY £499

18" VICTA SABRE Mains electric
NOW ONLY £129

YOUR LOCAL DEALER

<p>ADAMS Moss End (Huddersfield) 0344 88004</p> <p>BLACKBURN Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p> <p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p> <p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p> <p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p>	<p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p> <p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p> <p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p> <p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p> <p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p>	<p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p> <p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p> <p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p> <p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p> <p>CLAYTON Clayton (Blackburn) 0544 75417</p>
--	--	--

Mower City, New Road,
Princes Risborough, Bucks HP26 3UN
08444-7533

MOWER CITY

We cut everything but the service

PUT AN END TO BLOWN DOWN FENCES AND WALLS!

CLUSTER COLOURAMA ROSE HEDGE
WHICH DEFIES HIGHEST WINDS

10 for £9.35
20-£18.35 100-£78.00
250-£425.00 1000-£2125.00

10 YEAR GUARANTEE We provide a 10 year guarantee against all orders.

Easy and quick to grow in good or poor soil. Simply plant 12ins apart and virtually forget. Cluster Colourama grows with incredible vigour and speed. Deep glossy green foliage all summer. Hedges, pink, carmine and some white, golden centred blooms, richly perfumed all summer, followed by glowing scarlet, tomato like hips in autumn, that are rich in vitamin C. (The original Cluster Colourama is a clone of Rosa Rugosa - recommended by numerous U.K. horticultural journals. Ready to plant now for results this year. Remember, whilst there may be cheaper hedging offers, you won't find better or such a guarantee. Cultural advice accompanies all orders. No complicated pruning. No expensive maintenance. Order by post or email card, phone 023 374 256.

KENT COUNTRY NURSERIES
Challock Lees 23004, N. Ashford, Kent. 023 374 256

BECH HEDGING
12 different hedge varieties to choose from
Prices from £4.75 for 10

AGRIFRAMES FRUIT CAGES
Add charm & colour to your home protect your fruit from birds & frost. Full range of sizes, shapes & colours. Send for free brochure and net samples.

WINDUP GAROPES
Add charm & colour to your home protect your fruit from birds & frost. Full range of sizes, shapes & colours. Send for free brochure and net samples.

6X THE 100% ORGANIC MANURE
A more efficient and powerful manure than any other. It is a natural product of the earth and is completely safe for your plants and the environment. It is a natural product of the earth and is completely safe for your plants and the environment.

Bolens
Bolens owners say, "It's when you actually drive a Bolens that you really feel the quality."

FREE QUALITY GUARANTEE
The only unconditional 3 YEAR DOMESTIC WARRANTY including engine and transmission in the industry.

FREE TIPPER TRAILER
And if you decide to buy (before 21.4.90), please accept our Easter present, a FREE TIPPER TRAILER* (10 cu ft capacity) worth £175 + VAT when you buy any Bolens Ride-on or Garden tractor complete with mower deck and grass collector.

Bolens' mowers run on unleaded petrol.
*Offer applies to purchases made on or before 21.4.90 at full recommended retail price, while stocks last, and is available from participating dealers only.

Please send me details of Bolens Ride-ons and Lawn Tractors and the name of my nearest dealer.

Name: _____ Daytime Tel: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

To: Claymore Grass Machinery (Bolens Lawn & Garden Equipment), Watlington Road Industrial Estate, Bidford on Avon, Warwickshire B80 4JH. Telephone (0789) 430171

SHOPAROUND

The ORTHO-KINETICS
lifting chair"PUSH BUTTON-SITTING
AND STANDING"

At the touch of a button, the lifting chair gently and safely lifts you to a standing position. It can lower you to a sitting position again just as gently. A wonderful relief to all those for whom standing and sitting is a painful struggle.

- Copes with any weight
- Gives security and independence
- Choice of styles including power recliner
- A blessing for sufferers of arthritis, stroke, rheumatism, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease etc.

FREE LEAFLET
Send the coupon or write for our free leaflet.

Please send me your fully illustrated FREE leaflet on the lifting chair.

Name _____

Address _____

TC7/4C

Ortho Kinetics (UK) Ltd Wednesfield Wolverhampton WV13 3XA

"Good value. A thoroughly enjoyable package."

Amstrad PCW April & June 1989.

"These are very, very good"

A&B Computing Feb 1989

TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS

Volumes 1,2,3,4,5, & 6 and

THE TIMES JUBILEE PUZZLES

1932 - 1987 for Crossword Novices or Experts

Each volume has 60 Times Crosswords, features advanced 4th Generation software and is available for Amstrad, Archimedes, Atari ST, BBC, IBM, Nimbus & Spectrum. A comprehensive instruction booklet is included in an attractive A5 plastic case and cover.

Prices range from £9.95 for cassettes to £19.95 for IBM discs.

£2 surcharge for orders outside U.K.

Also, new AKROSS. The definitive Crossword Editor & Computer Crossword Game package for BBC & Colleague. Available for BBC & RM Nimbus. Discounted prices including Network Licence. VAT (UK only). Range from £49.50-£68.50. £2 surcharge for orders outside U.K.

Call AKOM LTD on 01-852 4575 for Mail Order and further details

Vous voulez lire?

Un plaisir rare vous attend.

La Vie Quotidienne est un nouveau magazine en français pour les lecteurs britanniques - touristes, étudiants, enseignants et hommes/femmes d'affaires.

Interesting articles on life and events in France and other French-speaking countries, written in straightforward French and suitable for a wide range of ability levels. Many reading aids.

Ca vous intéresse? Bon! Répondez aujourd'hui pour recevoir le premier numéro.

First issue (36 pages) now available. 6 issues p.a., subscription only.

Annual subscription (£10.80 plus fee) payable to La Vie Quotidienne, c/o Syla Close, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BJ.

HOMES & GARDENS

Continued From Previous Page

MASTER SHEARS

MANUFACTURED BY BURROUGHS & BALL SHEFFIELD ENGLAND

DEVELOPED FROM THE SHEEP SHEAR

Still the sharpest most versatile shear ever made

AS USED BY GARDENING EXPERTS

ON BOTH TV AND RADIO

A MUST FOR EVERY GARDENER

■ LIGHTWEIGHT

■ UNIQUE DESIGN - HANDLED EASY ACTION

■ STAYS RAZOR SHARP

■ NO WEARING LINKAGES

For all Soft Materials including:

GRASS - from medium edges and corners

DOWNY - For cutting hedges and corners

FLUWING - For cutting hedges and corners

Head Formed and Double Hollow Ground from Sheffield

Shear by Sheffield Craftsmen with a 250 year tradition of

Shear manufacture.

Available with:

3" Blade - £11.95 each

3" Blade - £10.95 each

3" Blade - £10.95 each

Post and Packing Included

MASTER SHEAR 145mm Blade 350mm Overall

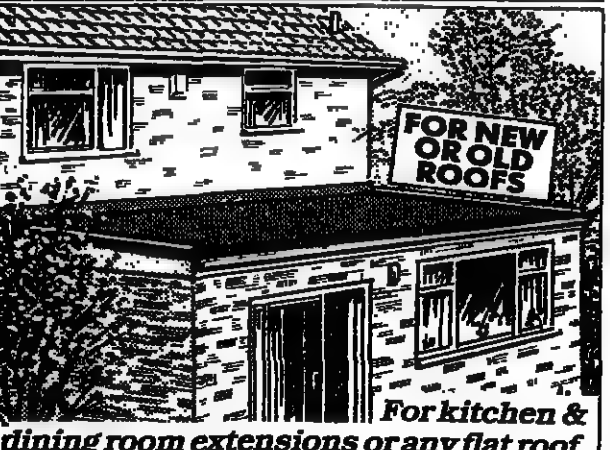
MULTI SHEAR 95mm Blade 250mm Overall

Tel your order using Access or Visa cards on:

0742 340320

or send for details to:

CRAFT SHOP (DEPT A), PO BOX 589, SHEFFIELD S6 2EH.



For kitchen & dining room extensions or any flat roof.

The flat roof that stands ladders and people who walk on it ... guaranteed not to leak for at least 20 years!

THE 'BAF' SYSTEM

IS WATERTIGHT

TOUGH polyester resin reinforced with fibreglass.

There are no joints. No seams to crack or leak.

In green, brown, grey or black.

The BAF team of 50 installers operate nationwide.

PLEASE SEND DETAILS ON THE BAF ROOFING SYSTEM

Domestic ☐ Commercial ☐ Please tick in box

MEASURED MATERIALS

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

DAYTIME _____

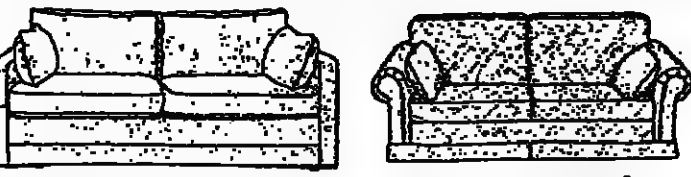
TELEPHONE _____

TELEPHONE _____

TELEPHONE _____

The SOFABED
Shop

LONDON'S LEADING SPECIALIST
ANNOUNCES SOME SPRING SAVERS



THE HOLBROOK £549

THE HAMPTON £649

3 SEAT SOFABEDS IN SELECTED FABRICS

CONTAINING 4" BED WITH DE LUXE SPRING INTERIOR MATTRESS

ALSO AVAILABLE MATCHING SOFAS AND CHAIRS

OPEN 7 DAYS SUNDAYS 11AM TO 6PM

NORTH LONDON

40 GILBY WICH LANE

MUSWELL HILL N18

444-7463

CENTRAL LONDON

82-87 HANOVER RD

LONDON NW1

388-7668

3 MIKE STATION

WARREN ST STATIONS

LONDON'S LARGEST

FUTON STORE

182 FORTIS GREEN RD

MUSWELL HILL

LONDON NW10

882-7700

ESSEX

182 HANOVER RD

ESSEX

04024 45555

FLAT ROOF PROBLEMS?
WE HAVE SOLVED IT.
MODERN METHOD

Modern materials the modern way,
totally maintenance free
glass reinforced polyester
applied in a single
operation.

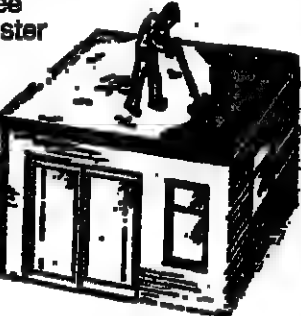
HEAT LOSS THROUGH

YOUR ROOF.

OUR ENERGY SAVER

CAN SAVE YOU UP TO

70%



20 YEAR GUARANTEE

ANBEL SYSTEMS LTD

TEL: 0344 867137

OPEN 7 DAYS 9AM TILL 8PM

INDUSTRIAL ENQUIRIES WELCOME

ACCESS + VISA ACCEPTED

Parker Knoll
AT
PETER ADAMS

SPECIAL LOW PRICES

OPEN GOOD FRIDAY, SUNDAY,

AND BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 10am - 4pm

BEVERLEY DROP END SOFA

COLUMBINE 3-STR 3-PC SUITE

BEVERLEY 3-STR 3-PC SUITE

RECLINERS

INGRAM 3-STR 3-PC SUITE

AND MANY MANY MORE DELIVERED ANYWHERE

SPECIALIST RECOVERY AND REFURBISHMENT SERVICE

SEE THE FABULOUS NEW ASHLIGH BED SETTEE

AVAILABLE FROM STOCK FROM £749

OPEN SUNDAYS 10am - 4pm

NOBODY UNDERSELLS

PETER ADAMS

208 STATION ROAD, EDGWARE, MIDDLESEX

01-958 3155

A FEW YARDS FROM EDGWARE STATION

Parking available at Rear of Store

BUYING WINDOWS

COME ON DOWN THE PRICE IS RIGHT

PHONE 0634 718008

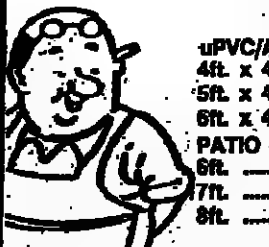
7-DAY DELIVERY

MADE TO MEASURE

ANY SIZE - ANY DESIGN

RING FOR AN INSTANT

QUOTATION



UPVC/ALUMINIUM DOUBLE GLAZED
4ft x 4ft £199
5ft x 4ft £275
5ft x 5ft £289
PATIO DOORS ALUMINIUM UPVC
5ft £509
5ft £549
7ft £649
8ft £689

DOORS (Front/Back) £175

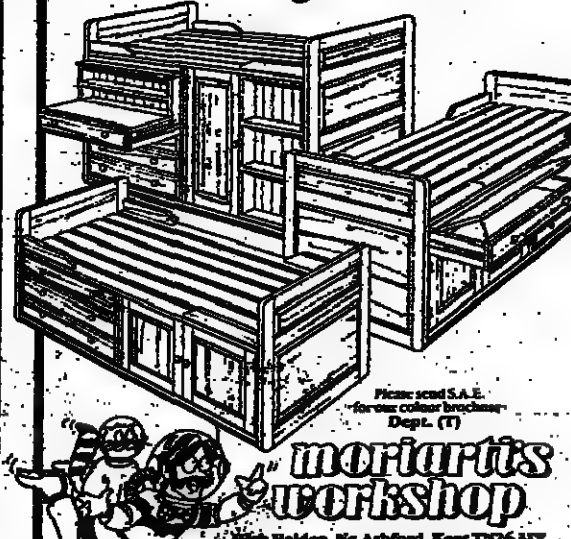
ALUMINIUM UPVC £299



YOUR OLD CINE FILMS
ANY AGE
CAN BE put on to VIDEO
ALSO 35mm SLIDES & PHOTOGRAPHS
FREE INFORMATION
TEL (0454) 772857
TEL (0454) 772857
MEMORIES ON VIDEO
ON YOUR OWN VIDEO
SHEFFIELD S10 2TP
0742 759972



FUTONS
SALE - WHIST STOCKS LAST
DIRECT FROM THE WORKSHOP
PROMPT NATIONAL DELIVERY
Send now for Free Brochure
SHEFFIELD S10 2TP
0742 759972

The Galaxy Range
of Solid Pine
Storage Beds

Please send S.A.E. for colour brochure Dept. (7)

mortons workshop

High Belden, N. Ashford, Kent TN26 3JY

Telephone: (023385) 214

SHOPPING

Report by Nicole Swengley

Cracking the Easter market

The Easter egg market in Britain is worth about £148 million a year and is increasing annually by nearly £10 million. The total number of eggs produced in 1988 weighed 15,850 tons, increasing last year to 16,340 tons.

Almost half the eggs are consumed by pre-teenage children, although adults account for more than a third of the spending. Young tastes differ from that of adults, as our tasting panel (below) discovered, and manufacturers aim their brands specifically at the two markets with great effect.

Such sweet success is jealously guarded by the main manufacturers. In recent years, the competition among them has been heightened by a series of takeovers. Fewer companies now control a larger proportion of the market. The Cadbury takeover of

Trebor and Bassett, for example, has given it 26 per cent of the UK's confectionery market. Rowntree Macintosh, which was acquired by Nestlé in 1988 for £2.5 billion, has around 23 per cent of the confectionery market and a big slice of the Easter egg section, selling nearly 30 million eggs a year.

These two companies account for more than 70 per cent of all Easter egg sales.

Mars, a relative newcomer in the Easter egg stakes since 1976, holds around 19 per cent of the overall confectionery cake. A smaller share, around 4 per cent, is

taken by Terry's of York, acquired by United Biscuits in 1982.

The average of £60 that each of us in the UK spent last year on all forms of confectionery is heavily influenced by brand loyalty. Although there are more than 1,000 brands of confectionery on sale in Britain, the top 36 account for around 50 per cent of sales.

Many of the most famous names have been around for years. The first Cadbury eggs were made in 1875. Rowntree eggs appeared in 1904. KitKat was launched in 1935 as Chocolate Crisp, changing its name two years later. Quality

Street dates back to 1936 and Smarties to 1937. Terry's All Gold emerged in 1932 in a box similar to today's Black Magic, introduced in 1933, was the result of consumer research leading to the first chocolate assortment made for the UK mass market (although its packaging has evolved over the years, only three chocolate centres have ever been replaced).

With brand loyalty so high on the shopping list, manufacturers are keen to sell not only chocolate eggs but specific brands of chocolate eggs. As a result, sales techniques have become highly

sophisticated. Huge advertising campaigns have become the means of ensuring continued brand loyalty. Jacobs Suchard is backing its first UK Milk range of Easter eggs with a £3 million television advertising campaign. Cadbury's crème egg relaunch is supported by an advertising spend of more than £2 million, plus extensive public relations activity.

John Newman, director of the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, says: "The Easter egg market has seen a huge revival over the past five years. This, together with the

growth in the under-five age group, has led to a 77 per cent value increase in the Easter egg market between 1984 and 1989."

Simon Warsap says in the trade magazine CTN: "The trend is for most manufacturers to base their lines on established brands and popular characters — usually cartoon and television figures. Style and taste have been the catchwords for the Eighties. But the days have gone when the bulk of Easter sales was through confectioners, tobacconists and newsagents. The retail world has changed; the load redistributed."

Despite the traditional emphasis on Cadbury's Buttons, launched in 1936, accounts for around nine million eggs each Easter — fresh trends are emerging, such as the new demand for white chocolate.

Personalizing eggs is another growth area, with more than 1.25 million names iced on to chocolate eggs in Thornton's 270 outlets last Easter.

Novelty eggs also have their place in this growing market. Kinnerton's has introduced 11 new lines this Easter, including Spider Man and the Incredible Hulk.

Magna, which achieved record sales last year, producing more than 18 million eggs, under its own name and for many of the UK's confectionery houses, is offering eggs featuring Yogi Bear, Rupert Bear, Popeye and Tom & Jerry, among others.

THE CHOCOLATE EGG TASTING PANEL

The proof of the chocolate is in the eating, so Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook, took part in a "blind" tasting session of a dozen Easter eggs with three self-confessed chocoholics: Helge Rubenstein, author of *The Chocolate Book*; Glen Purcell, who runs the kitchens at Studley Priory Hotel, Horton-cum-Studley, near Oxford, where a special chocoholics weekend takes place; and Meredith Tillman, an eight-year-old whose birthday treat following our tasting was a visit to Sadler's Wells' musical of Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Betty's size 3 milk chocolate egg decorated with sugar-paste spring flowers, £14.58 plus £4.60 p&p



Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook; Glen Purcell, hotel chef; Helge Rubenstein, writer; Meredith Tillman, aged eight

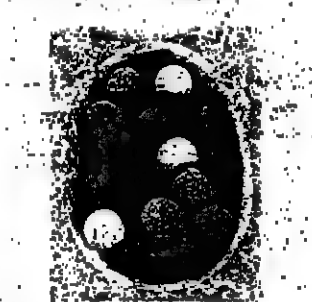
Cadbury's Milk Tray egg with separate milk chocolate assortment, £5.75

Frances: It's not for me. Helge: This one has a caramelized taste — the standard "English" chocolate. I would guess it's Cadbury's rather than Continental.

Glen: This is the best one I've tried so far. It has a traditional milk chocolate taste. A good kiddie's chocolate.

Meredith: A bit chewy. Panel score: 8

Heal's own-label 1 lb half plain chocolate egg filled with assorted truffles, £5.95



Frances: Very pleasant with a thick, rich, intense flavour that's not too sweet.

Helge: This isn't as sweet as some of the others and there is a little real chocolate flavour.

Glen: A bit nutty. Quite nice. Meredith: Quite a nice taste but a bit heavy to chomp. Panel score: 8

Mars' coconut-shaped Bounty egg with two Bounty bars, £2.49

Frances: Milk chocolate with some flavour other than chocolate. I don't like this much.

Helge: Terrible. You hardly know you are tasting chocolate, just sweetness.

Glen: Not a great taste. Meredith: Tastes milky and quite smooth. Panel score: 5

Harrods' dark chocolate egg filled with assorted plain chocolates, £25

Frances: Very dark and bitter, smooth, elegant with a pleasant aftertaste. I like this one.

Helge: I like this one. It tastes dark and bitter and has a lovely flavour.

Glen: Quite smooth and full of flavour. Meredith: Tastes a bit minty. Panel score: 10

Easter chicks. Betty's chocolate Broody Hen sits on a chocolate basket containing mini milk chocolate eggs, £3.05 and £14.50. Please add £4.60 p&p each. Order by phone (0423 53121) today or tomorrow for pre-Easter delivery.

● Thornton's eggs can be lost, free of charge, with an Easter message or name, at branches nationwide. Caring in time for adults and children, the range includes a white chocolate egg containing white chocolate drops, £2.25; a milk chocolate egg in a colourful chicken-shaped box, £2.75; and a top-of-the-range egg with a selection of Continental chocolates, £15.95.

● Rowntree Macintosh's individual mini eggs — Minty eggs 19p, Toffy and Mallow 19p, and Smarties Eggheads 30p — make good gifts for children. New from Rowntree Macintosh are the Nestlé's Milkbar Buttons egg, £1.25, and Convoy Thrillpack, £3.59, containing separate Robo, Yorkie and Aero eggs.

● New lines from Swiss confectioners Lindt include Classics, £9.50, a luxury milk chocolate egg with praline-filled miniatures, £9.50.

● Entering the character merchandising arena this year, Tesco's own-label Easter offering comprises a Flintstones egg at 75p and a Flintstones egg in a mug at £1.25.

● For men, Kinnerton's has developed its Black Tie and Playboy Bunny ranges. The Bunny, which has a fluffy white tail, costs £5.75.

● Holland & Barrett's eggs are made from carob, yoghurt and sugar-free chocolate, providing

Sachard's milk chocolate Toblerone egg with mini eggs inside and separate bar of Toblerone, £3.99



Frances: Milk chocolate and truffle. Rich flavour — creamy, silky. This might convert me to milk chocolate.

Helge: Awful. Just tastes of sweetness. There's only the illusion of chocolate and I don't like the way it irritates the back of my throat.

Glen: Doesn't taste like chocolate to me. Meredith: Very nice. It's got a smooth flavour. Panel score: 7

Terry's of York plain chocolate All Gold egg with plain chocolate assortment inside, £6.20



Frances: Dark chocolate, but it has a strangely bland initial flavour with an acidic quality to it. No finish or intensity.

Helge: Tastes scented and terribly sweet. Glen: It's a bit like cooking chocolate; cheap tasting. Meredith: Very nice. Panel score: 5

Kinnerton's Black Tie egg, with separate box of praline hearts and Champagne truffles, £3.99

Frances: Medium dark with a very thin shell. A "watery" finish, like cocoa.

Helge: Not bad. Quite smooth with a nice full flavour. Panel score: 9

● Sainsbury's does not have an own-label egg, but branches carry a wide range of branded eggs for adults and children with prices ranging from 75p for a milk chocolate Paddington Bear to £9.99 for Terry's 1767 egg.

● One of this season's most luxurious eggs is Bendicks of Mayfair's gold-leaf-wrapped First Edition egg, £29.95, a dark chocolate, hand-made, hand-decorated egg presented on a silk bed scattered with imitation rosebuds. From Bendicks, 40 Curzon Street, W1 (01-629 4389).

● Elizabeth Shaw's 10-egg range includes the company's best-selling Bailey's egg, £6.50, and the new Dark Chocolate Saint Crisp egg, £7.95, with 200g of mint crisps. A Harvey's Liqueur Truffle egg, £8.99, is also new to the range.

● Celebrating its 60th year as an Easter egg manufacturer, Terry's of York Chocolate Orange egg, the company's biggest seller last year, costs £2.49 and contains nine mini chocolate orange drops and a gift card. A friendly greetings card also comes with Deco, £2.75, from Terry's Moonlight range, all presented in Twenties-style boxes. Terry's top-of-the-range 1767 egg, £9.99, with its distinctive red seal, will appeal to shoppers with a taste for luxury.

● New eggs from Cadbury's include Thrills, £3.25, containing a selection of milk, white and plain chocolate-covered fruit and nut clusters, inspirations, £3.75, comes in a drawer-style presentation box, and Omeur Passion, £1.99, in a heart-covered box containing plain and white chocolate praline hearts.

● The top-selling Suchard eggs are Classics, £2.99, filled with mini eggs, and Twilight, £3.95, a large chocolate egg filled with after-dinner mint crisps.

● Asda has a good selection of children's eggs including favourites such as Basset's Dinosaur Menace egg, 99p, and Suchard's Royal Chocolate egg, £5.99. For adults, Elizabeth Shaw's liqueur truffle egg, £8.99.

● The top-selling Suchard eggs are Classics, £2.99, filled with mini eggs, and Twilight, £3.95, a large chocolate egg filled with after-dinner mint crisps.

● Asda has a good selection of children's eggs including favourites such as Basset's Dinosaur Menace egg, 99p, and Suchard's Royal Chocolate egg, £5.99. For adults, Elizabeth Shaw's liqueur truffle egg, £8.99.

● The top-selling Suchard eggs are Classics, £2.99, filled with mini eggs, and Twilight, £3.95, a large chocolate egg filled with after-dinner mint crisps.

● Asda has a good selection of children's eggs including favourites such as Basset's Dinosaur Menace egg, 99p, and Suchard's Royal Chocolate egg, £5.99. For adults, Elizabeth Shaw's liqueur truffle egg, £8.99.

● The top-selling Suchard eggs are Classics, £2.99, filled with mini eggs, and Twilight, £3.95, a large chocolate egg filled with after-dinner mint crisps.

● Asda has a good selection of children's eggs including favourites such as Basset's Dinosaur Menace egg, 99p, and Suchard's Royal Chocolate egg, £5.99. For adults, Elizabeth Shaw's liqueur truffle egg, £8.99.

● The top-selling Suchard eggs are Classics, £2.99, filled with mini eggs, and Twilight, £3.95, a large chocolate egg filled with after-dinner mint crisps.

● Asda has a good selection of children's eggs including favourites such as Basset's Dinosaur Menace egg, 99p, and Suchard's Royal Chocolate egg, £5.99. For adults, Elizabeth Shaw's liqueur truffle egg, £8.99.



Harrods' dark chocolate egg filled with assorted plain chocolates, £25

Glen: I'm not really into dark chocolate but I like this. Meredith: Quite smooth. Tastes a bit like coffee. Panel score: 9

Holland & Barrett's dairy-free carob egg with carob assortment inside, £4.99

Frances: Dark, yes, but is this really chocolate? It has a quite un-chocolate like texture, slightly fudgy. There's no chocolate flavour. Is it carob? Pleasant enough but surely hors de combat!

Helge: I can't believe this is sold as chocolate. It bends rather than breaks and has no taste at all.

Glen: I'd call this "off fudge". It goes to powder in the mouth. Meredith: I didn't like this one. It's too soft and chewy. Panel score: 3

Bendicks of Mayfair's hand-made dark chocolate Limited Edition egg with assorted chocolates inside, £29.95

Frances: Dark chocolate with a thick, bitter, agreeable taste. Helge: I like this one. There isn't a particularly strong flavour but it is quite smooth.

Glen: The taste stays in your mouth, which I don't care for. Meredith: The best because it has a really nice flavour. Panel score: 9

● Sainsbury's does not have an own-label egg, but branches carry a wide range of branded eggs for adults and children with prices ranging from 75p for a milk chocolate Paddington Bear to £9.99 for Terry's 1767 egg.

● One of this season's most luxurious eggs is Bendicks of Mayfair's gold-leaf-wrapped First Edition egg, £29.95, a dark chocolate, hand-made, hand-decorated egg presented on a silk bed scattered with imitation rosebuds. From Bendicks, 40 Curzon Street, W1 (01-629 4389).

● Elizabeth Shaw's 10-egg range includes the company's best-selling Bailey's egg, £6.50, and the new Dark Chocolate Saint Crisp egg, £7.95, with 200g of mint crisps. A Harvey's Liqueur Truffle egg, £8.99, is also new to the range.

● Celebrating its 60th year as an Easter egg manufacturer, Terry's of York Chocolate Orange egg, the company's biggest seller last year, costs £2.49 and contains nine mini chocolate orange drops and a gift card. A friendly greetings card also comes with Deco, £2.75, from Terry's Moonlight range, all presented in Twenties-style boxes. Terry's top-of-the-range 1767 egg, £9.99, with its distinctive red seal, will appeal to shoppers with a taste for luxury.

● New eggs from Cadbury's include Thrills, £3.25, containing a selection of milk, white and plain chocolate-covered fruit and nut clusters, inspirations, £3.75, comes in a drawer-style presentation box, and Omeur Passion, £1.99, in a heart-covered box containing plain and white chocolate praline hearts.

● The top-selling Suchard eggs are Classics, £2.99, filled with mini eggs, and Twilight, £3.95, a large chocolate egg filled with after-dinner mint crisps.

● Asda has a good selection of children's eggs including favourites such as Basset's Dinosaur Menace egg, 99p, and Suchard's Royal Chocolate egg, £5.99. For adults, Elizabeth Shaw's liqueur truffle egg, £8.99.

● The top-selling Suchard eggs are Classics, £2.99, filled with mini eggs, and Twilight, £3.95, a large chocolate egg filled with after-dinner mint crisps.

● Asda has a good selection of children's eggs including favourites such as Basset's Dinosaur Menace egg, 99p, and Suchard's Royal Chocolate egg, £5.99. For adults, Elizabeth Shaw's liqueur truffle egg, £8.99.

● The top-selling Suchard eggs are Classics, £2.99, filled with mini eggs, and Twilight, £3.95, a large chocolate egg filled with after-dinner mint crisps.

● Asda has a good selection of children's eggs including favourites such as Basset's Dinosaur Menace egg, 99p, and Suchard's Royal Chocolate egg, £5.99. For adults, Elizabeth Shaw's liqueur truffle egg, £8.99.

● The top-selling Suchard eggs are Classics, £2.99, filled with mini eggs, and Twilight, £3.95, a large chocolate egg filled with after-dinner mint crisps.

● Asda has a good selection of children's eggs including favourites such as Basset's Dinosaur Menace egg, 99p, and Suchard's Royal Chocolate egg, £5.99. For adults, Elizabeth Shaw's liqueur truffle egg, £8.99.

● The top-selling Suchard eggs are Classics, £2.99, filled with mini eggs, and Twilight, £3.95, a large chocolate egg filled with after-dinner mint crisps.

● Asda has a good selection of children's eggs including favourites such as Basset's Dinosaur Menace egg, 99p, and Suchard's Royal Chocolate egg, £5.99. For adults, Elizabeth Shaw's liqueur truffle egg, £8.99.

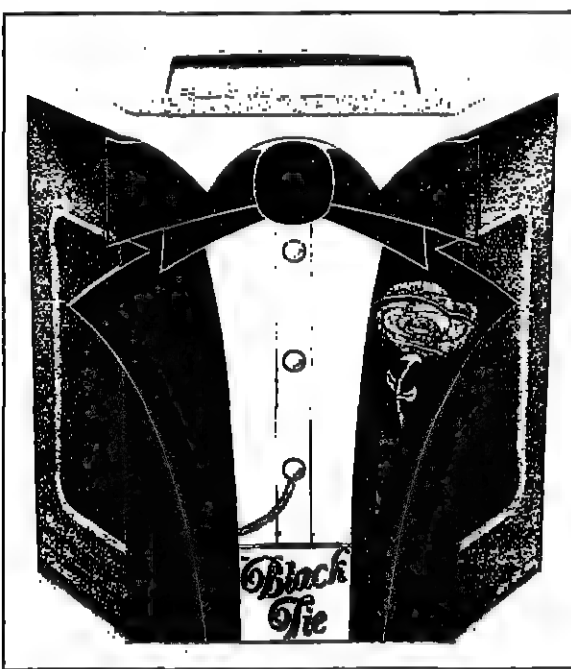
● The top-selling Suchard eggs are Classics, £2.99, filled with mini eggs, and Twilight, £3.95, a large chocolate egg filled with after-dinner mint crisps.

● Asda has a good selection of children's eggs including favourites such as Basset's Dinosaur Menace egg, 99p, and Suchard's Royal Chocolate egg, £5.99. For adults, Elizabeth Shaw's liqueur truffle egg, £8.99.

TOP OF THE CHOCS



Bendicks of Mayfair's dark chocolate egg, £29.95



Kinnerton's Black Tie egg, £3.99

CRACK IT WITH CORDULA



Act now—Get the full facts by sending for our free comprehensive Factfile and colour brochure.

WITH CORDULA

Cordula domestic rolladen will help you win in the fight against crime by providing an exceptional security barrier. They will dramatically reduce heat loss, condensation and draughts. They give you privacy, help stop furnishings from fading and keep you cool in Summer. Roller shutters are attractive enhancing the appearance of your home and are already fitted to over 25 million homes throughout Europe.



So easy to operate Available in a wide range of complementary colours For your free comprehensive Factfile & Brochure

PHONE ACTIONLINE NOW!

24 HOURS 7 DAYS A WEEK

0270 764433

FOAM FILLED SLATS FOR INSULATION

NEW AUTOMATIC LOCKING SYSTEM

Usually fitted externally Now also available in attractive internal fitting Always operated internally—with either pull cord or electric motor.

CRACK IT WITH CORDULA!

FREEPOST TODAY NO STAMP NEEDED

Please send me my free comprehensive Factfile & Brochure

Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____

Tel No. _____ Post to: CORDULA, Freepost, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 9BB

EGGSTRA!

● Godiva's biggest egg — dark hazelnut chocolate containing a chocolate assortment — weighs well over 3lb and costs £32.95, from Godiva's London outlets at Brompton Arcade, Knightsbridge, 150 Finchchurch Street, EC1; and Richmond Restaurant, South Audley Street, W1.

● Heal's own-brand plain chocolate eggs come with assorted chocolates and cost £2.25 (4oz) and £2.25 (7oz). A half 1lb plain chocolate egg filled with assorted truffles costs £5.95. Heal's, 180 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (01-638 1666).

● Fill a boxed chocolate shell (plain, milk or white) with your own selection of truffles or chocolates. Prices from £6.25 per 1lb egg, £12.50 for a 1lb egg, at Roboco Chocolates, 321 King's Road, SW3 (01-522 6857). Personal callers only.

● Boots offers three diabetic Easter eggs at £1.99, £2.09 and £2.25 each.

● Betty's Tea Rooms, in Harrogate, York, Northampton and Bury, is renowned for delicious hand-made cakes and confectionery. It offers mail-order, handmade Easter eggs. The decorations are elaborate with chocolate pussy willows, sugar-paste spring flowers and yellow Easter chicks. Prices start at £6.25 for a milk chocolate nest containing two praline-filled Song-thrush eggs and an Easter chick. A dark chocolate egg decorated with bluebells costs £11.58, as does a white chocolate egg with pussy willow and

● Rowntree Macintosh's individual mini eggs — Minty eggs 19p, Toffy and Mallow 19p, and Smarties Eggheads 30p — make good gifts for children. New from Rowntree Macintosh are the Nestlé's Milkbar Buttons egg, £1.25, and Convoy Thrillpack, £3.59, containing separate Robo, Yorkie and Aero eggs.

● New lines from Swiss confectioners Lindt include Classics, £9.50, a luxury milk chocolate egg with praline-filled miniatures, £9.50.

● Entering the character merchandising arena this year, Tesco's own-label Easter offering comprises a Flintstones egg at 75p and a Flintstones egg in a mug at £1.25.

● For men, Kinnerton's has developed its Black Tie and Playboy Bunny ranges. The Bunny, which has a fluffy white tail, costs £5.75.

● Holland & Barrett's eggs are made from carob, yoghurt and sugar-free chocolate, providing

● Sainsbury's does not have an own-label egg, but branches carry a wide range of branded eggs for adults and children with prices ranging from 75p for a milk chocolate Paddington Bear to £9.99 for Terry's 1767 egg.

● One of this season's most luxurious eggs is Bendicks of Mayfair's gold-leaf-wrapped First Edition egg, £29.95, a dark chocolate, hand-made, hand-decorated egg presented on a silk bed scattered with imitation rosebuds. From Bendicks, 40 Curzon Street, W1 (01-629 4389).

● Elizabeth Shaw's 10-egg range includes the company's best-selling Bailey's egg, £6.50, and the new Dark Chocolate Saint Crisp egg, £7.95, with 200g of mint crisps. A Harvey's Liqueur Truffle egg, £8.99, is also new to the range.

NEW FROM TODAY

GALLERIES

FRENCH CONTEMPORARY ART: Works from 1960-80 by minimalist and conceptual artists such as François Morellet and Christian Boltanski. Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (031 556 8821). From Sun.

THE END OF WORDS: Selected works 1948-70 by Jiri Kolar, a Czech artist specializing in collage, photo-montage and picture poems. Institute of Contemporary Arts, London SW1 (01-930 0453). From Thurs.

THE BURGHLEY BOOKS: An exhibition focusing on 17th and 18th century illustrated botany. Burghley House, Stamford, Lincs (0780 52451). From Fri.

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN EXPERIENCE: The 50th anniversary is commemorated with archive material and aircraft. RAF Museum, Hendon, London (01-200 1763). From Wed pm.

APPROACHES TO REALISM: Paintings in various styles from the incomprehensible theorising of the Art and Language team to socially conscious painters Terry Atkinson and Sonia Boyce. Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool (051 705 5689). From today.

OUT OF THE FOREST: Paintings teeming with angst-ridden little figures and frightened faces, by Evelyn Williams. Chester Arts Centre, Cardiff (0222 396061). From today.

TREASURES OF THE PRINTS AND DRAWINGS COLLECTION: Highlights from one of the best collections in the world of works on paper. British Museum, London WC1 (01-636 1555). From today.

GEORG BASELITZ: New paintings by an influential German artist; one of a school of Bad or Wild Painters. Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London W1 (01-498 4100). From Thurs (preview Wed).

MARIO SIRONI: Posters for Fiat from 1950-60. Deane Museum, London SE1 (01-403 6933). From Tues.

OUTINGS

LEECHES TO LASERS: Medical history highlighting 150 years of pioneering work at King's College Hospital. King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry, Camberwell, London SE5. From Mon.

THE NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM ON TOUR: Display of 40 major exhibits from the National Collection including "Puffing Billy" the world's oldest steam engine and "Evening Star" the last steam locomotive built for British Rail. Swindon Railway Works, Swindon. From Tues.

A CELEBRATION OF 150 YEARS OF THE CUNARD LINE: Another major exhibition which traces the story of one of the most famous shipping companies in the world. Merseyside Maritime Museum, Albert Dock, Liverpool. From Tues.

KINGS IN CONFLICT: IRELAND IN THE 1690s: More than 300 artefacts — many from France and Holland — illustrating events in Ireland at the end of the 17th century in the context of the power struggle between Louis XIV and William of Orange. Ulster Museum, Belfast (0232 685510). From Wed.

MONISTERS OF THE DEEP: The museum has been transformed into a living seabed with lifelike replicas and live specimens. Exhibition also explores man's relationship with the sea with particular reference to marine pollution and conservation. Yorkshire Museum, York (0904 629745). From Thurs.

GLASGOW'S GLASGOW: The largest temporary exhibition designed and assembled in the UK — one of the highlights in the city nominated cultural capital of Europe 1990. A "city within a city" has been created to include two huge exhibition areas containing numerous displays, more than 2,000 artefacts, and video presentations. There are also two cinemas and a theatre. Glasgow's Glasgow, 50 Washington Street, Glasgow. From Fri.



Correspondent of peace: the sensual photographer Edouard Boubat's *Auto-Portrait*, Paris, 1951

PHOTOGRAPHY

GORBALS CHILDREN: For 15 months during 1984-85, the Scottish photographer Joseph McKenzie documented the lives of those who lived in these slums. While the children are invariably seen as lively and cheeky, the backdrop is a grim symbol of post-war decay in Britain. Portofolio Gallery, Edinburgh (031 220 1911). Now until May 5.

LAST OF A BREED: The working cowboys of America captured by English photographer John Schreier. Portofolio Gallery, (01-989 0453). Today-April 28.

One of the most interesting trends in French photography since the Second World War is its predilection for the genre which has become known as humanist photography, a preoccupation with the poetry of ordinary daily life rather than with the momentous events that have shaped world history. Within the framework of such photography, constructed by the likes of Henri Cartier-Bresson and Robert Doisneau, sits Edouard Boubat, similar to but in many ways very unlike his contemporaries. Boubat has rightly earned himself the sobriquet "the correspondent of peace" with work that suggests a calming hand laid over a troubled humanity. His dominant theme is simple — human relationships the world over — but specific within this theme is his fascination with women, none more so than Lella, his wife during the 1940s and 1950s. The collected photographs of this time have become an extraordinary visual love poem. *Les Femmes* is an affectionate and sensual exhibition specially selected by Boubat, who is now in his 67th year. The Photographers Gallery, Print Room, 5 and 8 Great Newport Street, London WC2 (01 831 1772). Now-May 5. Michael Young

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: *Die Meistersinger*. John Cox's newish production with Bernd Weild as Sachs, conducted by Christoph von Dohnányi. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1086). Mon and Thurs.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Verdi's *Macbeth* in new staging by David Pountney, with Ian Spink's Second Stride providing the ballet. Coliseum, London, WC2 (01-636 3161). Tonight and Thurs.

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: *Der Rosenkavalier*. Traditional staging by Wolfgang Weber, with Amanda Flookoff engaging as Sophie. Andrew Greenwood conducts. Bristol Hippodrome (0272 298444). Tonight.

OPERA NORTH: Pierre Audi's controversial production of Verdi's *Jérusalem*, previously staged in Britain. Conducted by Paul Daniel, challenging staged by Pierre Audi. Grand Theatre, Leeds, (0532 445326). Tonight and Wed.

CINEMA

CAPTAIN JOHNNO (U): Winning Australian children's film about a deaf boy in the 1950s. Mario Andreacchio directs. ICA Cinema (01-930 3847). From today.

UNCLE BUCK (12): John Candy as a ne'er-do-well taking care of his brother's children in suburbia. Filmmay comedy written and directed by John Hughes. Plaza (01-437 1234). Cannon Oxford Street (01-630 0310). From Fri.

SANTA SANGRE (18): Blood-soaked fantasy set in a travelling circus, from cinema's wild man Alejandro Jodorowsky. Extraordinary, surreal and disturbing. Metro (01-437 0757). Gate Notting. Hill (01-221 0220). From Fri.

MCABE AND MRS MILLER (18): Revival of Robert Altman's downbeat 1971 film about a gambling braggart (Warren Beatty). Camden Palace (01-485 2443). From Fri.

JAZZ

DAVE O'HIGGINS: Versatile Roadside Picnic saxophonist, on an outing with a quartet featuring the group's bassist Mario Castaneda. Vortex Jazz Bar, London N18 (01-254 6616). Thurs.

JOHN HARTLE: The virtuoso jazz/classical musician plus five-piece band, continues his Classic Sax Tour, playing duets and mixing Debussy with Ellington and Marvin Gaye in a varied programme. The Stables, Waverdon, Milton Keynes (0908 583828) tonight.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8900) Mon; Southport Theatre, The Promenade (0704 400404) Tues; RNCM, Manchester (061 273 4504) Wed.

SUE SHATTOCK/TERRY DISLEY: The singer and keyboard player lead an afterthought pop-jazz band. Bass Cafe, London N1 (01-729 2478) Wed, Thurs.

CONCERTS

SEASONAL HAYDN: Franz Wersner Most conducts the London Philharmonic Choir, Orchestra and soloist in Haydn's *The Seasons*. Festival Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (01-928 8900). Today.

HERMANN, DOROTHEA: The virtuoso Chamber Orchestra of Europe is conducted by Heinz Holliger in Schumann's *Hermann and Dorothea Overture*, Beethoven's *Symphony No 7*, and Gluck's *Kriemhilde's Revenge* in Schütz's *Violin Concerto No 3* and Schumann's *Fantasy Op 181*. Barbican Centre, London, EC2 (01-638 8891). Tomorrow.

RYE/BOTTRILL: Quite an interesting programme from Daniel Rye (clarinet) and Andrew Bottrill (piano) in their first full London recital with Stravinsky's *Three Pieces*, Debussy's *Prelude*, Ravel's *Ma mère l'Oye*, and Liszt's *Etude* and *Canzonetta*, and sonatas by Poulenc and Brahms. Wigmore Hall, London, W1 (01-935 2141). Mon.

CHIEFLY MOZART: Gordon Fergus-Thompson, a fine young pianist, solos in Chopin's often ethereal *Piano Concerto No 2* with the ECO, but otherwise it's all Mozart, including the *Nocturne*, *Figaro Overture*, *Festival Hall* (as above). Mon.

SEVEN WORDS: Haydn's *Seven Words of Our Saviour on the Cross*, are played by the Deane Quartet, with readings by Richard Baker. St John's, London, SW1 (01-222 1061). Tues.

POLISH MASTERPIECES: Framed by Debussy's *Jour et Nuit* and Szymanowski's *Stabat Mater*, one of his greatest works is heard played by the BBC SO; Chorus and soloists under Ewa Podlas. Festival Hall, London (as above). Wed.

CARDIFF POLYPHONY: John Lubbock conducts the Cardiff Polyphonic Choir and Orchestra at St John's, Smith Sq, in Bach's *Canzona No 32* and Fauré's *Requiem*. St John's, London (as above). Thurs.

ROCK



JIMMY SOMERVILLE: Disco darling (above) featuring material from the days of Bronski Beat and the Communards, along with his more recent solo offerings. Hacienda, Manchester (061 238 5051) Tues; Rock City, Nottingham (0602 412544) Wed; Liverpool University (051 794 2000) Thurs.

TOOTS AND THE MAYTALS: Colossally influential Jamaican group — the band for whom the word "reggae" was coined. Town & Country, London NW5 (01-284 0303). Fri.

JERRY LEE LEWIS: Hell-fire piano man and first generation rock'n'roller now in his dotage. BIC, Bournemouth (0202 257297) Wed; Usher Hall, Edinburgh (031 228 1164) Fri.

LLOYD COLE: Cool customer even allowing for the ill-advised "designer" stubble. Brixton Academy, London SW9 (01-526 1022). Tomorrow.

DEL AMITRE: Pleasing use of slide guitar, harmonica and occasional organ in a crisp modern setting. Corn Exchange, Cambridge (0223 357857) tonight; Town & Country, London NW5 (01-284 0303) tomorrow; Hummingbird, Birmingham (021 236 4236) Tues; Royal Court, Liverpool (051 709 4321) Wed; Barrowlands, Glasgow (041 552 4601) Thurs.

ALL ABOUT EVE: Weighty hippie-rock for the Laura Ashley set. Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-599 8212). Tomorrow-Tues.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Giselle with Ravenna Tucker today and Wed. Fions Chedwick tonight and Lesley Collier on Tues. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1086).

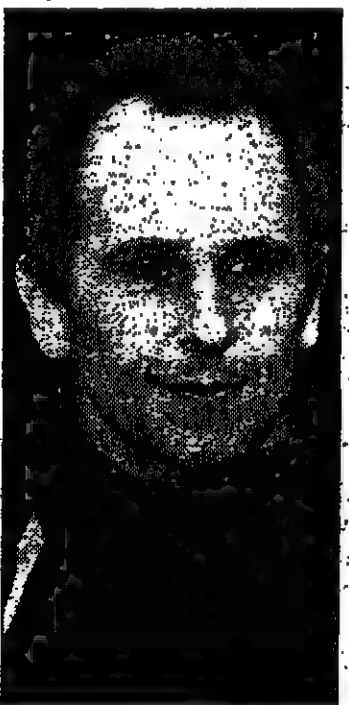
LONDON CITY BALLET: At the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford (0483 60191) today; then at the Forum, Billingham (0642 552663) with *La Traviata* Tues-Thurs.

JEWELS: Egyptian dances by Suraya Hail. Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham (021 643 1231). Sun.

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE: A mixed bill at Theatre Royal, Bath (0225 65074) today; Giselle at Theatre Royal, Brighton (0273 28488) Tues-Sat April 14.

LES BALLET JAZZ: Company from Montreal with lightweight programmes. Sadler's Wells, London EC1 (01-278 6916) today and Tues-Sat April 14.

FEATHERSTONEHAUGH: All male group in quirky numbers by out choreographer, Les Anderson. ICA, London SW1 (01-930 3847).



Leading player: Wayne Sleep

Back in the West End again, with Wayne Sleep and Marti Webb, its original stars, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance* has toured widely in this country and played successfully on Broadway. The song suite *Tell Me on a Sunday*, with Don Black's lyrics, makes up one half, with Webb cast in the role of a woman whose relationship with a lover is coming to an end. Sleep leads a troupe of eight dancers for the other half of the evening, performing to the "Variations" from which television's *The South Bank Show* takes its theme tune (as played by the composer's cellist brother, Julian). Although the return is for a limited season, it temporarily brings the total of Lloyd Webber shows in the West End back to five, with *Phantom of the Opera*, *Starlight Express*, *Cats* and *Aspects of Love* all still here. What price a revival of *Jeeves*, the collaboration with Alan Ayckbourn which is his only flop to date? Song and Dance, Shaftesbury Theatre, London W1 (01-579 5399). Previewing. Opens April 23.

THEATRE

THE AWAKENING: Julian Garner's first play since *Golden Leaf Street*. Linda Bassett, Paul Copley, Cori O'Neill and Gabrielle Reidy, directed by John Dove. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Centre, London NW3 (01-722 5301). Previews from Thurs. Opens April 18.

RED STAR BROUHAHA: Youth theatre festival involving 400 young people from companies all over Britain and eastern Europe. Full-length performances, life-right cabaret and workshops. At the Playhouse, Unity and Tate Gallery. Playhouse (051 709 8363). From Thurs-April 22.

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL: John Neville returns to the National in a distinguished cast including Prunella Scales, Jane Asher, Denis Quilley. Directed by Peter Woolf. Oliver, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 2252). Previews from Thurs. Opens April 24.

E

ast End playwright Barrie Keeffe continues his custom of premiering his work at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, with *Net Fide Away*, previewing there next week. It offers the poignant pleasure of hearing Miriam Karlin sing, in the role of an independent, spirited woman who "runs away" from an old people's home to return to her east London birthplace. She befriends a black musician (Paul Barber) and settles down again, reconciling herself to the ways in which the area has altered since the Sixties, although her family proves less adaptable and accepting than she. Songs of that period, hits for the Beatles, the Kinks and Desmond Dekker, provide the musical element, with a trio of musicians playing live to accompany Karlin's vocals. *Not Fade Away*, Theatre Royal Stratford East, Gerry Raffles Square, London E15 (01-534 0310). Previews from Thurs. Opens April 18. Tony Patrick

BRIDGE

Last week's Channel 4 programme about bridge attempted to discover why so many talented people get their greatest kick from playing tournament bridge, and why there is quite so much intensity in this small, closed world, where the most glittering prizes are usually not cash but personal satisfaction and a step up in an esoteric pecking order.

For Zia Mahmood, on whom the programme focused, the game is more than just a buzz — it is a lifestyle. London-based Zia is a sybarite, who nevertheless takes bridge so seriously that he goes light on the calories and does physical exercises before a tournament.

His team recently came second in the ACBL's Vanderbilt Trophy. But a few more press-ups would not have swung it: the margin was 81 IMPs.

Abstinence is not, on the whole, awfully popular with the tournament elite. If you saw the TV programme, perhaps you already believe that.

performance fell short, rather than those where he shone. "I never forget a deal where I blundered," he says. "Over and over again, it returns to haunt me." His collection of tales includes this one, where he held the East cards. Opposite sat Giorgio Belladonna, still the world's top master-point holder, even though the Blue Team is now but a memory.

Dealer North. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ J 10 7 6
♥ 8 5
♦ K 8 2
♣ A 9 3

♠ A 6 5
♥ K 10
♦ A 8 2
♣ J 6 4 3

♠ K 9 7 5
♥ 7 5 2
♦ K 9 7 8 3
♣ Q 10 7 5

♠ K 9 8 5 2
♥ 9 5 4
♦ Q 10 4
♣ A 8

W N E S

Belladonna Eisenberg Sharif Goldman

No 17 No 18 No 19 No 20

No 21 No 22 No 23 No 24

On lead as West, Belladonna felt that the contract was likely to be made. The bidding had been confident and his own hand, with the king of hearts a dead duck, held no unpleasant surprise for declarer. What shred of hope could be found?

A valiant defender always assumes that the contract can be beaten, somehow or other. The lionhearted Belladonna led the 10 of hearts, hoping that as the suit had been bid and supported, declarer might be pressured into thinking a ruff was threatened.

It worked, and Goldman decided to put on the ace. A trump from the table went to

declarer's king, which was allowed to hold. The next round of trumps was won by Belladonna with the ace.

As Omar prepared to discard on this trick, he realized that his partner would be looking for a signal. But it never entered his head, he admits, that Belladonna held the king of hearts. For the moment, he discarded a heart.

With this discard, the defence collapsed. ("As, too, did poor Giorgio," says Omar). The defenders could now take only the obvious tricks, the king of hearts and diamond. Omar's team gained 1 IMP because South in the other room took a normal finesse in hearts and made an overtrick, but they could have gained 13.

Had Omar not discarded a heart on the ace of spades, Belladonna would have brought off a memorable coup. He would, there is not the least doubt, have cashed the king of hearts and underlined the ace of diamonds to put East on play with the king. Now a heart return enables West to ruff for four tricks.

Perhaps Omar's obsessive self-criticism and the more common habit of dwelling on success are, among these super-players as at more humble bridge tables, simply manifestations of the human desire for the approval of one's peers.

An individual championship in Atlantic City next month offers the richest-ever cash prizes, but for Omar Sharif and Zia Mahmood these rewards will be secondary to being centre-stage, the place where they — and all their rivals — are happiest.

Albert Dornier

Today's problem is from the game Lectynsky (White) — Kubicek (Black), Prague 1968. Can you see how White can finish off his attack on the king-side?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times Winning Move Competition, The Times, Pennington Street, London E1 9SN. The first time closed answers, drawn on Thursday next week, will win a Times valued personal chess computer. The winning move will be printed in *The Times* next Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Rhg2 2 Bxh3 3 Qxh3 4 g4 5 Rg4 6 h4 7 Rh3 8 Qh2 9 Qg3 10 Qf2 11 Qg3 12 Qh2 13 Qg3 14 Qh2 15 Qg3 16 Qh2 17 Qg3 18 Qh2 19 Qg3 20 Qh2 21 Qg3 22 Qh2 23 Qg3 24 Qh2 25 Qg3 26 Qh2 27 Qg3 28 Qh2 29 Qg3 30 Qh2 31 Qg3 32 Qh2 33 Qg3 34 Qh2 35 Qg3 36 Qh2 37 Qg3 38 Qh2 39 Qg3 40 Qh2 41 Rh3 42 Rh4 43 Rh5 44 Rh6 45 Rh7 46 Rh8 47 Rh9 48 Rh10 49 Rh11 50 Rh12 51 Rh13 52 Rh14 53 Rh15 54 Rh16 55 Rh17 56 Rh18 57 Rh19 58 Rh20 59 Rh21 60 Rh22 61 Rh23 62 Rh24 63 Rh25 64 Rh26 65 Rh27 66 Rh28 67 Rh29 68 Rh30 69 Rh31 70 Rh32 71 Rh33 72 Rh34 73 Rh35 74 Rh36 75 Rh37 76 Rh38 77 Rh39 78 Rh40 79 Rh41 80 Rh42 81 Rh43 82 Rh44 83 Rh45 84 Rh46 85 Rh47 86 Rh48 87 Rh49 88 Rh50 89 Rh51 90 Rh52 91 Rh53 92 Rh54 93 Rh55 94 Rh56 95 Rh57 96 Rh58 97 Rh59 98 Rh60 99 Rh61 100 Rh62 101 Rh63 102 Rh64 103 Rh65 104 Rh66 105 Rh67 106 Rh68 107 Rh69 108 Rh70 109 Rh71 110 Rh72 111 Rh73 112 Rh74 113 Rh75 114 Rh76 115 Rh77 116 Rh78 117 Rh79 118 Rh80 119 Rh81 120 Rh82 121 Rh83 122 Rh84 123 Rh85 124 Rh86 125 Rh87 126 Rh88 127 Rh89 128 Rh90 129 Rh91 130 Rh92 131 Rh93 132 Rh94 133 Rh95 134 Rh96 135 Rh97 136 Rh98 137 Rh99 138 Rh100 139 Rh101 140 Rh102 141 Rh103 142 Rh104 143 Rh105 144 Rh106 145 Rh107 146 Rh108 147 Rh109 148 Rh110 149 Rh111 150 Rh112 151 Rh113 152 Rh114 153 Rh115 154 Rh116 155 Rh117 156 Rh118 157 Rh119 158 Rh120 159 Rh121 160 Rh122 161 Rh123 162 Rh124 163 Rh125 164 Rh126 165 Rh127 166 Rh128 167 Rh129 168 Rh130 169 Rh131 170 Rh132 171 Rh133 172 Rh134 173 Rh135 174 Rh136 175 Rh137 176 Rh138 177 Rh139 178 Rh140 179 Rh141 180 Rh142 181 Rh143 182 Rh144 183 Rh145 184 Rh146 185 Rh147 186 Rh148 187 Rh149 188 Rh150 189 Rh151 190 Rh152 191 Rh153 192 Rh154 193 Rh155 194 Rh156 195 Rh157 196 Rh158 197 Rh159 198 Rh160 199 Rh161 200 Rh162 201 Rh163 202 Rh164 203 Rh165 204 Rh166 205 Rh167 206 Rh168 207 Rh169 208 Rh170 209 Rh171 210 Rh172 211 Rh173 212 Rh174 213 Rh175 214 Rh176 215 Rh177 216 Rh178 217 Rh179 218 Rh180 219 Rh181 220 Rh182 221 Rh183 222 Rh184 223 Rh185 224 Rh186 225 Rh187 226 Rh188 227 Rh189 228 Rh190 229 Rh191 230 Rh192 231 Rh193 232 Rh194 233 Rh195 234 Rh196 235 Rh197 236 Rh198 237 Rh199 238 Rh200 239 Rh201 240 Rh202 241 Rh203 242 Rh204 243 Rh205 244 Rh206 245 Rh207 246 Rh208 247 Rh209 248 Rh210 249 Rh211 250 Rh212 251 Rh213 252 Rh214 253 Rh215 254 Rh216 255 Rh217 256 Rh218 257 Rh219 258 Rh220 259 Rh221 260 Rh222 261 Rh223 262 Rh224 263 Rh225 264 Rh226 265 Rh227 266 Rh228 267 Rh229 268 Rh230 269 Rh231 270 Rh232 271 Rh233 272 Rh234 273 Rh235 274 Rh236 275 Rh237 276 Rh238 277 Rh239 278 Rh240 279 Rh241 280 Rh242 281 Rh243 282 Rh244 283 Rh245 284 Rh246 285 Rh247 286 Rh248 287 Rh249 288 Rh250 289 Rh251 290 Rh252 291 Rh253 292 Rh254 293 Rh255 294 Rh256 295 Rh257 296 Rh258 297 Rh259 298 Rh260 299 Rh261 300 Rh262 301 Rh263 302 Rh264 303 Rh265 304 Rh266 305 Rh267 306 Rh268 307 Rh269 308 Rh270 309 Rh271 310 Rh272 311 Rh273 312 Rh274 313 Rh275 314 Rh276 315 Rh277 316 Rh278 317 Rh279 318 Rh280 319 Rh281 320 Rh282 321 Rh283 322 Rh284 323 Rh285 324 Rh286 325 Rh287 326 Rh288 327 Rh289 328 Rh290 329 Rh291 330 Rh292 331 Rh293 332 Rh294 333 Rh295 334 Rh296 335 Rh297 336 Rh298 337 Rh299 338 Rh300 339 Rh301 340 Rh302 341 Rh303 342 Rh304 343 Rh305 344 Rh306 345 Rh307 346 Rh308 347 Rh309 348 Rh310 349 Rh311 350 Rh312 351 Rh313 352 Rh314 353 Rh315 354 Rh316 355 Rh317 356 Rh318 357 Rh319 358 Rh320 359 Rh321 360 Rh322 361 Rh323 362 Rh324 363 Rh325 364 Rh326 365 Rh327 366 Rh328 367 Rh329 368 Rh330 369 Rh331 370 Rh332 371 Rh333 372 Rh334 373 Rh335 374 Rh336 375 Rh337 376 Rh338 377 Rh339 378 Rh340 379 Rh341 380 Rh342 381 Rh343 382 Rh344 383 Rh345 384 Rh346 385 Rh347 386 Rh348 387 Rh349 388 Rh350 389 Rh351 390 Rh352 391 Rh353 392 Rh354 393 Rh355 394 Rh356 395 Rh357 396 Rh358 397 Rh359 398 Rh360 399 Rh361 400 Rh362 401 Rh363 402 Rh364 403 Rh365 404 Rh366 405 Rh367 406 Rh368 407 Rh369 408 Rh370 409 Rh371 410 Rh372 411 Rh373 412 Rh374 413 Rh375 414 Rh376 415 Rh377 416 Rh378 417 Rh379 418 Rh380 419 Rh381 420 Rh382 421 Rh383 422 Rh384 423 Rh385 424 Rh386 425 Rh387 426 Rh388 427 Rh389 428 Rh390 429 Rh391 430 Rh392 431 Rh393 432 Rh394 433 Rh395 434 Rh396 435 Rh397 436 Rh398 437 Rh399 438 Rh400 439 Rh401 440 Rh402 441 Rh403 442 Rh404 443 Rh405 444 Rh406 445 Rh407 446 Rh408 447 Rh409 448 Rh410 449 Rh411 450 Rh412 451 Rh413 452 Rh414 453 Rh415 454 Rh416 455 Rh417 456 Rh418 457 Rh419 458 Rh420 459 Rh421 460 Rh422 461 Rh423 462 Rh424 463 Rh425 464 Rh426 465 Rh427 466 Rh428 467 Rh429 468 Rh430 469 Rh431 470 Rh432 471 Rh433 472 Rh434 473 Rh435 474 Rh436 475 Rh437 476 Rh438 477 Rh439 478 Rh440 479 Rh441 480 Rh442 481 Rh443 482 Rh444 483 Rh445 484 Rh446 485 Rh447 486 Rh448 487 Rh449 488 Rh450 489 Rh451 490 Rh452 491 Rh453 492 Rh454 493 Rh455 494 Rh456 495 Rh457 496 Rh458 497 Rh459 498 Rh460 499 Rh461 500 Rh462 501 Rh463 502 Rh464 503 Rh465 504 Rh466 505 Rh467 506 Rh468 507 Rh469 508 Rh470 509 Rh471 510 Rh472 511 Rh473 512 Rh474 513 Rh475 514 Rh476 515 Rh477 516 Rh478 517 Rh479 518 Rh480 519 Rh481 520 Rh482 521 Rh483 522 Rh484 523 Rh485 524 Rh

England face fight for survival

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Bridgetown, Barbados

ENGLAND were yesterday condemned to an arduous fight for survival in the fourth Cable and Wireless Test, as Carlisle Best carried the West Indies to an intimidating total at Kensington Oval.

Best's marathon of stroke-making was only one headache for England as they approached this second day with the weary resignation of players who know their fate.

Contrary to all expectations, the pitch was beginning to behave inconsistently enough to suggest that batting will become steadily more hazardous.

It was one of those pivotal mornings on which two or three quick wickets could swiftly have altered the shape of the game. On a pitch as good as this one, had seemed to be on Thursday, 350 would not have appeared formidable, and it was the West Indies' capacity for collapse which comforted England overnight. Early inroads with the new ball, which saw service for only three deliveries on Thursday, and their foot-slogging of the first day might not have seemed so fruitless.

The opening day had ended amid chaotic scenes, dozens of spectators invading the pitch to lift Best on their shoulders as he completed his maiden Test century at the age of 30. For some years, Best has been a nearly-man, hovering on the fringes of the West Indies team, outstanding in domestic cricket, but never quite commanding the undivided attention of the selectors.

This is only his sixth Test, but his tenure is now confirmed and the toothy grin that is his trademark never left his face as his fans tossed him in the air like a rag doll.

"Faith and confidence kept me going all the time I was out of the West Indies team," he explained later. "I do not allow myself to get too anxious, like I did before, and I always perform best under pressure."

Nothing had changed when play resumed yesterday. Once again, it was Malcolm bowling to Best, and a night's rest had plainly not altered the pecking order. Best had promised to "plod on" towards a second century, and if plod was not quite the appropriate word for his scoring rate, there was still no sign of an end to him.

The second biggest cheer of the first evening had greeted another, more reluctant centurion. Malcolm had seemed gloomily destined for 0-100 from quite early in the day and, as the figures clocked up on the scoreboard, the Bajan majority in the crowd celebrated as if a shadow had been lifted from their team.

In a sense, so it had. Richards' assault on Malcolm had been as deliberate as it was dramatic and Lamb's dubious decision to take the bowler off before Richards could get at him again left the West Indian captain in undeniable control.

Malcolm's mistake had been to bowl consistently short on a pitch which did not support it. With the ball coming on at even pace and height, his one hope of wickets relied on reckless batting. West Indies have been known



Arms and the man: The Barbados crowd reaches out to mob Best as the West Indies batsman celebrates a maiden Test century at Bridgetown

WEST INDIES		First Innings	
G O Greenidge c Russell b DeFreitas	41	6	108
D L Haynes c Stewart b Small	9	4	4
R S Richardson c Russell b Small	46	8	144
C A Best not out	139	2	151
V A Richardson c Russell b Small	31	5	99
A L Logie c Russell b Small	31	5	99
J P J L Dujon c Russell b Small	31	5	99
M D Marshall c Lamb b Small	31	5	99
C B L Ambrose not out	31	5	99
Total (7 wickets)		408	

1 R Shephard, E A Moseley to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-89, 3-108, 4-227, 5-291, 6-386, 7-408.
BOWLING: Malcolm 25-3-125-4 (2nd); Small 30.2-5-82-3; DeFreitas 25-3-90-1 (4th); Capel 24-5-88-3 (2nd).
SQUADS: W Larkins, A J Stewart, R J Bailey, A J Lamb, P A Smith, N Hussain, D J Capel, P A Russell, P A J DeFreitas, G C Small, D E Malcolm; Barbados: A Archer and L Barker.

to trade liberally in this, but it hardly equated such brainless bowling.

Dujon has been short of runs so far in the series and he plainly saw yesterday as the chance to correct the matter. Surviving a wild thrash at the first ball he received from Malcolm, he cut him upshishly for four and then snipped his head back as the next one was predictably shorter and unexpectedly straight.

Malcolm, now bowling to only two slips and a ring of fielders saving one, saw Best treat a respectable leg stump yorker with disdain, whipping it through mid-wicket for four. He reacted in the usual way and Best, rocking back, played a remarkable short-arm pull, which rocketed past the bowler's right hand on its way to the straight boundary.

This was drum-roll batting, noisily appreciated by another 10,000 crowd on a day of exhausting heat. But, even as Best pushed on towards 150, there were more worrying things happening for English consumption than the clicking of the scoreboard. The pitch was showing alarming signs of deteriorating.

More than one delivery from Small to Best kept low

and, when Capel took over from the same end, two balls as an over reared unpleasantly at Dujon, one taking him on the chest from a good length.

Best reached 150 in 395 minutes with his seventeenth four, a fluent cover drive against Small. The century stand took only a little more than two hours, Dujon making only 27 of them, and he had added just four to his score when Capel bowled him with one which scarcely left the ground.

This provided some consolation for the persevering Capel, the first time in his Test career he has taken three wickets in an innings.

Given the state of the game, it was not something he was likely to celebrate overmuch.

England took another wicket in the final over of the morning, when Marshall was caught at slip off Small, but, by then, the West Indies were past 400 and in total control. Mark Nicholas, the captain of the England A team this winter, was yesterday discharged from the Barbados hospital where he has been under intensive treatment for malaria. Nicholas is likely to stay on the island recuperating for the next week before flying home.

The Best century of his life after years of promises

Bridgetown

AT THE end of the first day, the West Indians had reached Harrods in the lead, with clear water separating them from England. On the second day of this high stakes Test match, they began to exploit the long Hammermill bend.

In short, the cricket began to assume a professional quality. To those of us who had been present during the whitewash series of 1984 and the winter of 1986, let alone The Summer of the Five Captains in 1988, it was a return to the familiar. It was as if the game had ceased to be a competition and became a ritual: an old established rite in which English cricket is sacrificed on the altar of Caribbean excellence.

The series has, till now, comprised day after day of pinch-me-to-see-if-I'm-dreaming sort of cricket. And it has enthralled everyone. Even in the enclosed world of Formula One motor racing, the fascinated disbelief caught hold: in Brazil a fortnight ago, mechanics, PR people and drivers kept asking me about the latest score from Port of Spain.

Well, if there was a fault in reality, it appears to have been repaired. There is nothing to do but sit back and enjoy the batting. England showed great character, you might say, to restrict their opponents to a mere four an over. It has been relentless rather than spectacular. It has certainly been crushing.

The innings has centred on Carlisle Alonzo Best, batsman and space cadet. He has been a promising young man for years: for more than a decade.



He is now 30, and just as boyish as ever.

It is only his sixth Test, and this his first Test century. He has waited long enough for it - and his delight in his achievement has been the high point of this match thus far. The crowd was as happy as he was. Best ("Bessie") is a Bajan himself, and one held in enormous affection.

He is loved as much for his frailties, as in spite of them: the frailties of temperament that have kept him a fringe candidate for the big boys' team until now. He is a kind of Bajan Virginia Wade, and the incredulous delight that greeted his century reminded me of Ginny's win at Wimbledon: elation and disbelief mixed half-and-half.

I hear one said something about Best. In the 1986 series, Best had the bizarre habit of giving radio commentaries to himself as he was batting. Phil Edmonds, mostly fielding at short leg, used to listen amazed as Best chuntered on: "And Best is right behind that... puts the wicket and returns to his crease, there's no run."

Edmonds, something of a space cadet himself, always rather enjoyed it. But more orthodox short legs have teased and sledged Best out of the habit. I hope he was commenting silently to himself, all the same, at his moment of triumph, one he reached in style with a

murderous pull off Malcolm. Alas, poor Malcolm. After two glorious matches, reality has claimed him. The wild sprayer of the ball was back: his fantasy life, it seemed, had ended. He reached his personal century (of runs conceded) before Best did, and he took fewer balls about it as well. Sport can sometimes be very unamusing for its practitioners.

It has its compensations, though. Best, lifted shoulder-high on a tidal wave of joyful Bajan, has had the time of his life. Things sometimes taste all the better for long deprivation. "I am happy," he said. "I am elated. I am extremely overjoyed."

As to his long absence from the West Indies squad, he said bafflingly: "I never thought about it." It was the remark of a true space cadet.

But he has been batting quite beautifully; and more or less chancelessly, it has been a classic innings of watchfulness on the good 'uns, and an assault of uninhibited glee on anything wallpable. And for the radio team that inhabit Best's head, it has been the commentary of a lifetime.

Aintree claims fourth victim as stakes rise

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Graham McCourt was standing by last night to ride Against the Grain in the Seagram Grand National at Aintree today after Mark Dwyer had bruised his left hand in a fall from Native Friend yesterday.

McCourt became free to take the mount after The Thinker, third in the National last year and joint top weight this time, had been withdrawn because of the firm going. McCourt said: "I definitely won't be riding Monamore. If Mark doesn't pass the doctor, I'll be on Against the Grain."

However, Dwyer said later: "I should be all right, it only aggravated an old injury."

In as unpleasant a fall as one could see, Native Friend was killed when duelling for the lead at the final flight of the Glenlivet Hurdle with his stable companion, the eventual 25-1 winner, Sybillin.

There have been four fatal accidents in the first two days of the three-day meeting. Peter Scudamore, the champion jockey, said: "It's just bad luck and nothing to do with the National course at all. One horse was killed in a fall at the first and the other two completed the course but sustained injuries. Perhaps horses could be feeling the pace on the very firm ground in very competitive races. Horses are pretty tired by the time they reach the last, as they have been racing from a long way out."

On the prevailing fast going, the winning time in the John Hughes Memorial Trophy on Thursday beat the track record by 3½ seconds. Red Rum's 1973 National record of 9min 1.9sec is obviously at risk today.

Before the start this afternoon, the senior steward will, as usual, warn the 40 jockeys of the risks of going too fast in the early stages.

Yesterday Dick Saunders, who won the 1982 National as a jockey on Grittar, was in the

chair. "We'll ask them to go steady, but they probably won't take much notice, as everyone wants to get a good position. They are generally flat to the boards as far as the third fence before they settle down."

As the nation embarks on its annual gambling spree on the world's greatest steeplechase, 15 million punters are expected to bet a total of £50million. Over 70,000 fans are expected at Aintree and another 300 million will be watching worldwide on television.

Brown Windsor, a fast ground specialist, has been backed down from 33-1 to 7-1 favouritism in recent months and a victory for Nick Henderson's eight-year-old would cost Hills and Corals alone £1million.

John White, the favourite's jockey, said: "I'm looking forward to the ride. Brown Windsor is in tremendous form. They should go pretty quick on the going, but Brown Windsor won over 2½ miles at Cheltenham and should have no trouble in going the gallop."

Late gambles developed on Bigsun, Durham Edition and Rinsus. "All these horses won't mind the ground and their jockeys have good records at Aintree," said Mike Dillon of Ladbrokes.

Neale Doughty, who has completed the course four times in as many rides, will be attempting to repeat his 1984 win on Halo Dandy for Gordon Richards, the Cumbria trainer.

In napping Rinsus, I fear Bigsun and take Mr Frisk to fill third place. "Mr Frisk is a great jumper, but my my nightmare is that I will land in front on the flat only to be run out of it by Brown Windsor or Bigsun," said Marcus Armytage.

Grand National guide, pages 52-53

Hospitality hitches are overcome at Aintree

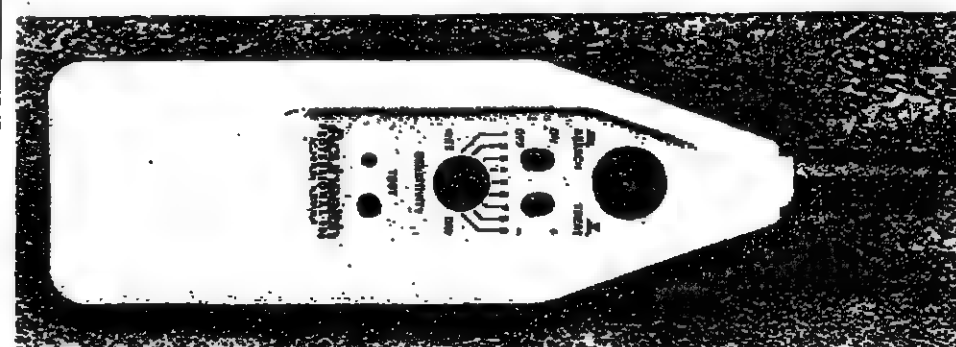
THE corporate hospitality company which was in difficulties in providing a satisfactory service at the Grand National said yesterday it had succeeded in obtaining 300 badges for its clients at Aintree today (John Goodbody writes).

Peter Penny, the spokesman for Falcon Leisure, said that the problem had been "sorted out" and the badges, which had been obtained from Aintree, had been dispatched.

Penny said that Falcon Leisure, a company based in west

London, had taken on the obligations to fulfil the contracts of Macworth, another corporate hospitality which occupied the same building as Falcon Leisure but had now ceased to trade.

However, a spokesman for Aintree said yesterday: "No badges have been knowingly sold to either Falcon Leisure or Macworth as companies, although it is possible that some have been sold individually or in small groups." County enclosure badges for today cost £27 but they were all sold weeks ago.



PAIN RELIEF

For all types of sporting injuries, arthritis, back pain and pain in general.

Since it was first documented some 600 years BC, countless millions of people have come to recognize acupuncture as a valued form of drug-free treatment.

Yet even with our advanced technology, Western Society has not been able to improve on its principles.

We can, however, claim credit for making acupuncture more convenient.

No-needles acupuncture.

Developed by a leading Australian doctor and acupuncturist, in conjunction with South Australia's Technology Park, Acuhealth doesn't use needles.

Instead, it uses minute electronic impulses to locate specific treatment points and stimulate them painlessly without puncturing the skin. It helps provide relief for many conditions including back and neck pain, rheumatic pain, headache, migraine, PMT, sinusitis, stress, sporting injuries and pain in general.

The Acuhealth kit, which comes with a 30 day money back guarantee, comprises the unit and a comprehensive, easy to follow treatment and instruction book.

Acuhealth

THE 'NO NEEDLES' HOME ACUPUNCTURE KIT.
Ask for FREE demonstration at
Acuhealth Pty Ltd, 32 Maple Street, London W1.

Acuhealth is also available in Harrods, John Bell and Crockett, Forter, Nash, and other leading pharmacies.

健康之道

Heart risk threat of new drug

By John Goodbody

THE American manufacturer of a drug which helps competitors improve their stamina by increasing their red blood cell count have had reports that it is available on the black market in Europe at up to £50 per 1,000 units.

The journal *General Practitioner* said that no study had been carried out on the dangers to athletes in taking EPO, a genetically engineered copy of a natural hormone, erythropoietin, but some doctors believe that by increasing red blood cell count, they risk a stroke or heart attack.

The maximum recommended dose of the drug, which is used therapeutically in the treatment of anaemia, is 100 units per kilogram of bodyweight, three times a week for eight weeks. A competitor taking this course could spend over £9,000 before a major event.

Two years ago, Professor Arnold Beckert, a member of the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission, suggested that the drug, which is manufactured by Amgen in the United States, should contain "markers", additives that would not alter the chemical properties of a drug, but would make it identifiable in testing.

FA names its price for Cup

By Clive White

THE Football Association insisted yesterday that it would hold out for a sponsorship of £5 million a year over five years for its prestigious FA Cup competition, the oldest in the world. The FA also made it known that they were willing to incorporate the name of the sponsors into the competition's title.

Bert Millichip, the FA Chairman, is adamant that £5 million is the minimum figure that would be acceptable for a competition that commands worldwide television audience of over 100 million but Glen Kirton, the director of external affairs, said that they were "nowhere near" concluding a deal with anyone yet.

The Football League are also looking for a new sponsor for their own competition, for which the Littlewoods sponsorship ends this season.

Brian Hillier, the Swindon Town chairman, had his sentence for his part in the recent betting scandal increased on appeal when he appeared before the Football Association at Lancaster Gate yesterday. The FA disciplinary committee, which was chaired by Bert Millichip, who is also the FA chairman, decided that the original punishment imposed upon Hillier of six months' suspension from all activities

when Nottingham Forest play Oldham Athletic at Wembley on April 29. The League, whose sponsorship of the competition is worth £750,000 a year, is pushing for at least £1 million for any new contract.

A ticket distribution for this year's FA Cup final on May 11 will be different from previous years, depending on the size of the clubs who contest the final. If Manchester United and Liverpool reach the final their share will be 20,000 tickets each, as it would be for a Crystal Palace-Oldham final. But should a big club and a relatively smaller one reach the final, the ticket distribution would be 26,000 to the larger club and 14,000 to the smaller.

The capacity of Wembley stadium, now that it is all-seater, is 78,500. The FA said that the Director General of

Fair Trading approved of the principle, following complaints from their Liverpool department two years ago that too many tickets had fallen into the wrong hands. It was agreed that the new principle was fairer.

The FA also announced that it would permit any replay of tomorrow's FA Cup semi-finals to be shown live by BBC next Wednesday should the Corporation request it. ITV are scheduled to show the Arsenal-Aston Villa League game live the same evening. Graham Kelly, the FA Chief Executive, conceded that difficulties in television scheduling was something that they needed to sort out with the League.

Kelly unveiled yesterday new plans to control the development of the Nations young playing talent. He proposes a national curriculum

for the development of youngsters from the ages of 11 to 14 which would restrict too many competitive games and 11-a-side matches on full size pitches.

"It seems to me there is far too much pressure upon boys to achieve results. Until now there hasn't been a collective resolve to do anything about it. There should be a National plan covering nine to 16-year-olds rather than 11-14 with the whole thing controlled by the FA, the League and the English Schools FA."

It is the view of Kelly that this is the only way forward for the national game. His blue-print for the future was drawn up in association with Bobby Robson, the England Manager and Charles Hughes, the FA's Director of coaching.

More football, page 49

Hillier's ban increased

relating to the game was insufficient and increased it to three years.

The penalty imposed on Lou Macari, the former Swindon manager, for his part in the illegal bet which was placed on an FA Cup tie involving his own club, stands. The £1,000 fine against Macari was deemed to be adequate.

Chester chairman to go

THE problems of Chester City, of the third division, deepened yesterday when Eric Barnes, the club chairman for the past eight years, announced that he is to resign his post at the end of the current season (Ian Ross writes).

Chester were also informed yesterday that Greenall Whitley, the brewers, are considering ending their sponsorship

deal with the club after three years.

The club recently sold their Sealand Road ground to a Scottish construction company and will be forced to play all their home games at a neutral venue, possibly Naughton Park, the home of Widnes rugby league club, until the completion of a new, £2 million stadium in 12 months' time.

The Times reports from the Masters tournament at Augusta National

Realists scorn Donald's lead

From Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent
Augusta, Georgia

NICK Faldo began his second round in the 54th Masters here yesterday seven strokes behind Mike Donald, of the United States, but far from disappointed.

Faldo is a realist and he knew that to be chasing Donald, whose 64 tied the first round tournament record established in 1940 by Lloyd Mangrum, and John Huston (66) was more comforting than to be in the slipstream of a Severiano Ballesteros or Greg Norman.

It is common for players like Donald and Huston, both in their first Masters, to lead in the first round; rare for them to still be there on Sunday evening. "The slums of Chicago are full of first round leaders," Peter Jacobsen, who

held third place following an opening 67, said. "I've been out here a long time and I've learned what you do on Thursday and Friday doesn't mean much."

Donald is a resident of Hollywood, Florida, but by his own admission he could not be accused of playing a star role on the US Tour. He has won only one tournament since becoming a professional in 1978. It would not be exaggerating the point to suggest that his 64 was born in fantasy land.

"When I was a youngster I dreamed of playing the Mas-

ters but I never dreamed of shooting a round like that," Donald, aged 34, said. "It was the round of my life. I actually felt like I had won the tournament."

He is perceived to be the quintessential blue-collar worker on the US Tour, which is not surprising. In 1988 he played in 40 tournaments and finished only 96th on the money list. Last year, when he teed-up in 38 tournament, was something of a watershed as he won for the first time. Success in the Anheuser-Busch Classic gave him his passport to the Masters.

Donald deserved to bask in glory even if his 64, on a first day of uninterrupted sunshine, could be the product of him not reading the script. The entire cast was supposed to be scared of the greens. Donald, however, felt head over heels in love with them.

He holed from 40 feet at the fourth and with that he began a run of eight birdies in 12 holes. He was out in 31, which equalled the first-nine record set by Mark Lye in 1984, by holing three putts of between 15 and 20 feet and by chipping in from 40 feet at the ninth.

Donald was within sight of equalling the course record of 63, which Nick Price established in 1986, when he stood on the 18th tee but he was more than content to escape

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	400	4	11	465	4
2	555	5	12	465	4
3	390	4	13	485	5
4	255	3	14	485	5
5	435	4	15	405	4
6	180	3	16	350	3
7	360	4	17	170	3
8	535	5	18	400	4
9	435	4	19	405	4
Out 3,485 Yds		36	In 3,440 Yds		36
Total yardage 6,925			Par 72		

with a par following a drive which finished in the trees.

Donald was well aware as he began his second round alongside Huston that history is against him. Fuzzy Zoeller (1979) is the only player to have won the Masters at his first attempt and in the 1980s only two players, Ballesteros (1980) and Ben Crenshaw (1984), led after the first round and went on to win. "For a while, at least, people might remember that Mike Donald led the Masters," Donald said.

It seemed that Faldo, unlike Donald, had read the script. He took three putts from six feet at the 16th where Ballesteros needed four putts. "I felt as if I'd really be screwed," Faldo said. "I was proud of that six-iron shot there and you would think that if you hit it to that distance then you have half a chance. I think the greens are quicker this year. They probably did try to slow them down on Thursday but the sun

and the wind dried them out." Bernhard Langer finished stronger than Faldo so that, with a birdie at the 15th and another at the 17th, he led the European challenge with a 70 after the first round. Jose-Maria Olazábal, Ronan Rafferty and Ian Woosnam all scored 72 to be alongside, among others, Jack Nicklaus, who last weekend won his first tournament on the US Seniors Tour.

Nicklaus, who has won a record six Masters, had some comforting words for Ballesteros, who walked from the course with a face like thunder after a 74, and advice too for his playing partner Greg Norman, who took 78. "Before everybody gets excited about those low scores on Thursday you must remember that we know that everybody comes back to par in this tournament," Nicklaus said. "And that is probably what is going to happen in this year's event."

Not that Ballesteros and Norman were the only victims on the first day. For Tom Watson (77), Sandy Lyle (77), Stephen Dodd (77), the amateur champion from Wales, Lee Trevino (78), Craig Parry (80), of Australia, and Paul Azinger, who had a ten at the 13th in his 80, the first priority as the second round unfolded was to survive the halfway cut.



Lip trembler: Severiano Ballesteros unhappy with his form at the Augusta Masters

All Box No. Replies

should be sent to

Box Number

Box No. Dept.,

P.O. Box 484 Virginia Street,
Wapping, London, E1 9DD

An old master staying firmly in the picture

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — His right shoulder hurt so much he could not tee the ball up or take it out of the hole. He hit most of his shots "far" because of arthritis, which limits his swing to a defensive flinch. Asked what he shot, Gene Sarazen replied: "My age, 88."

He and his 76-year-old partner, Sam Snead, played nine holes in an hour and 16 minutes, then left the Augusta National Golf Club to young golfing lions of another era.

There were two highlights of the day for Sarazen, the official starter of the Masters. "The first one was, I was thankful to be alive and hitting the ball on the first tee," said the wisecracking "Squire".

"The other was a 60-foot par putt on the 8th green. My shoulder hurt like hell, but it was a pretty day. There's no course in the world like this one."

Of course, Sarazen had a better day in 1935, when he made the most famous shot in Masters history, 220 yards with a four-wood that went into the hole for an albatross on the 500-yard 15th.

The shot got Sarazen into a play-off, and he beat Craig Wood the next day to win the Green Jacket.

That single stroke made Sarazen's career. On Thursday, he played in his 34th Masters, from the men's regular tees. He has been the

honorary starter since 1981.

"I feel I'm part of this place, and as long as I'm alive I'll come up [from Marcos Island, Florida] and play," Sarazen said. "The worst thing about being 88 is you shuffle your feet. You can't pick 'em up."

Sarazen said he only plays nine holes, once a week. "It's my doctor's orders," he said. "He makes me play once a week. He told me to play whether I play well or not."

Sarazen said he has been stunned by the size of the crowds he has seen this year at the Masters. "We used to play before 50 or 60 people early in the week, and now they're talking about it getting too big and limiting ticket sales," he said.

Sarazen was besieged by autograph seekers as he drove his golf cart away from the 9th green. "It's nice to see you, keep coming back and playing," a spectator shouted. Sarazen smiled. "I'll be back, if I'm living," he said.

Oddly, Sarazen has not visited the site of his famous shot in over a decade. He does not play the inward nine any more. "I think it has been 15 years since I've been back there," Sarazen said. Why? "It's too far to walk."

With that, Sarazen left to fly back to Florida and watch the Masters on television. "I'll tune it in when they get to the back nine on Sunday," he said. "That's when this tournament starts."

FIRST ROUND SCORES

(US unless stated)

64: M Donald.
65: J Huston.
66: S Jacobsen.
66: S Balfour.
70: G Archer, R Floyd, B Langer (WG), L Mick, C Strange, B Glasson, M Ozaki.
71: T Purzcar, A North, S Hoch, N Faldo (GB), P Stewart, C Patton, D Hammond, M Hubert.
72: R Twy, J Mahaffey, R Rafferty (GB), C Beck, W Grady (Aus), P Senior (Aus), L Waddins, F Zoeller, I Woosnam (GB), C Sander, Crenshaw, J-M Olazábal.
73: D Pooley, H Green, B McCallister, R Gomez, G Player (SA), S Ballesteros (Sp).

74: W Casper, D Frost (SA), B Glaser, L Nelson, J Mudd, M McIlroy, M Calzaghe, D Ishii, F Couples, T Pernice, S Simpson.
75: T Armour III, T Schultz, T Kite, M O'Meara, N Ozaki (Japan), C Goody, M Lyle.
76: A Bean, C Byrum, T Hobby, A Palmer, G Brewer (un).
77: T Aaron, T Byrum, I Baker-Finch (Aus), T Watson, S Jones, T Simpson, S Dodd (GB), A Lyle (GB), W Levy, T Sills.
78: G Norman (Aus), D Ford, K Green, L Trevino.
79: D Green, J Sluman, D Forsman.
80: C Perry (Aus), R Thompson, P Azinger.
81: H Satton.
82: J W Taylor.
83: S Ballesteros (Sp).

MOTOR RACING

Finns may be extended by British drivers

By Stephen Slater

The Finnish drivers, Mika Hakkinen and Mika Salo, are expected to face stiff opposition from British drivers in the second round of the British Formula three championship at Silverstone tomorrow.

The Finns occupied the first two places in the inaugural race at Donington last weekend, with the Londoner, Steve Robertson, in third place, but other British drivers have been working hard to redress the balance.

Silverstone is ideally suited to Formula Three cars, which have excellent aerodynamics and grip through the fast corners.

Paul Stewart and Derek Higgins of the Milton Keynes-based Paul Stewart Racing Team both lapped the track at a record-breaking average of almost 120mph while fine-tuning their cars last week. Higgins's test session came to an abrupt end when the car spun out of control into a wall. Fortunately, both Higgins and car survived serious damage and are expected to be front-runners this weekend.

A new model of car will be seen on the track for the first time at Silverstone this weekend. The 2.8 litre, turbo-charged Nissan Skyline of Keith Odor will be challenging the Ford Sierra Cosworths.

FOOTBALL

Chigwellians favourites for the double

By George Chesterton

THE Old Chigwellians and Old Reptonians meet in the Arthur Dunn final at 3pm today on the London University ground at Moots Park, the first time the two sides have met in the last stage of the competition.

The Chigwellians are enjoying the best season in their history, and are currently three points clear in the premier division of the Arthurian League, with several matches in hand. They have twice been in the final before, winning in 1980, and must be the favourites to do the double this time.

This year, they have beaten Highgate, Wellesborough and Winchester in earlier rounds of the competition.

The Reptonians have an impressive record, having been in 19 finals, winning the Cup on 10 occasions, their most recent success being in 1987. Six players from that final will take the field today, although Blakesley, a key player, is not available. Repton have disposed of Ardingly, Eton and Brentwood, the last match going their way by the odd goal in a close struggle.

Steve Ogilvie, the Coventry City goalkeeper, makes his 400th professional appearance against Derby County.



Anyone for tennis?

Thirty two colours in pure combed cotton.
The Famous Shirt.

FRED PERRY

PHONE 01-807 1010 FOR YOUR NEAREST STOCKIST.

SPORTSWEAR

مكتبات الأمل

Briggs

Champion cross Lancashire

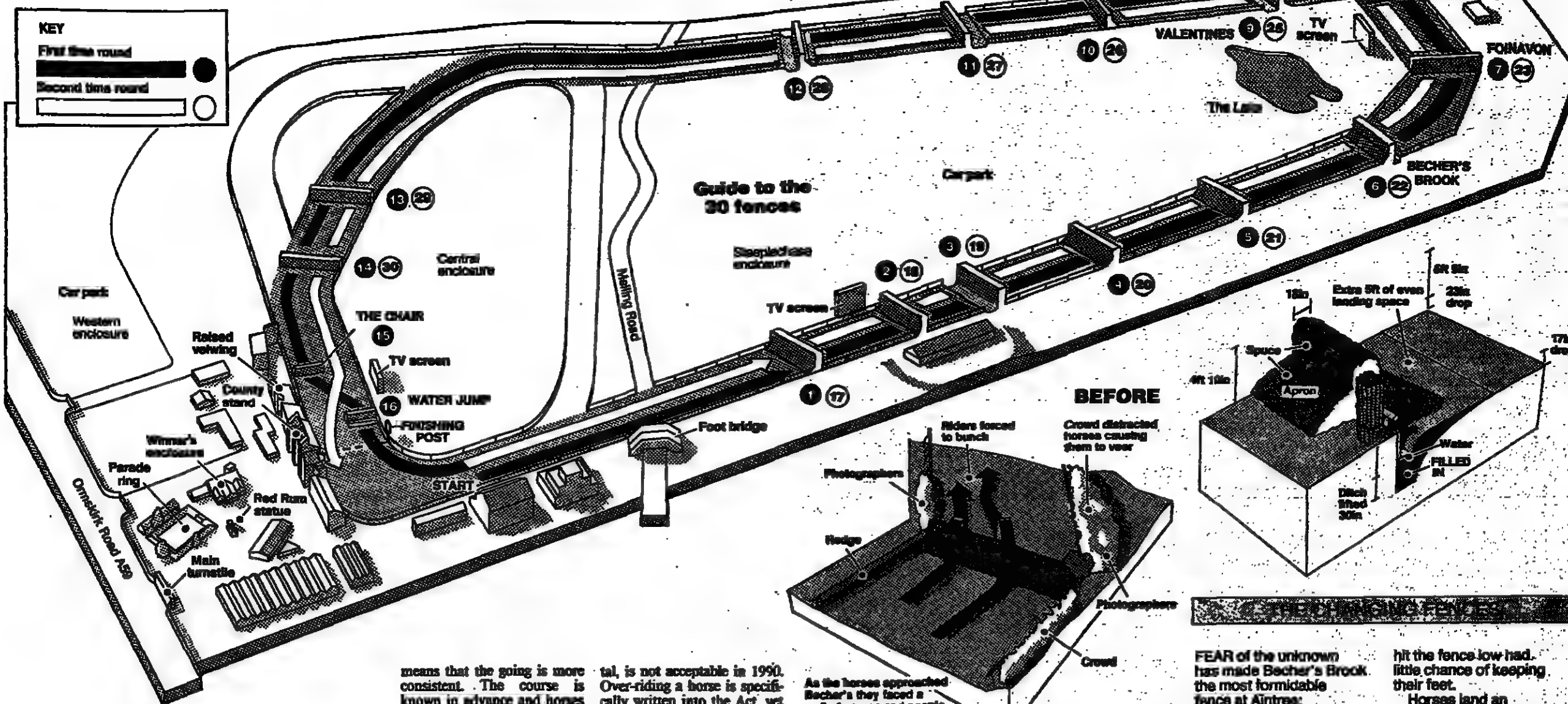
Jewellers ba

TODAY

Neath tread

The Times sets the scene for the Grand National at Aintree today

Danger adds a seductive zest to action

Brown W
poised to
frustrating
of Hendo

Hazardous sports can be the most exciting for spectators and participants alike, the very element of danger adds a seductive zest to the action, but the perfect balance between recreation and risk remains elusive.

The issue is complicated enough when humans alone gamble with their lives, but when other, less articulate, species are asked to share the danger without having the right to decline, the debate becomes particularly intense.

At one extreme, the hunt, shooting, fishing, set seems insensitive if not callous; at the other end, the animal rights activists can appear to exploit animals for political gain.

The controversy over the Grand National is not new, although in 1911, when an Act of Parliament was passed to protect animals from cruelty, the suggestion that steeplechasing might be barbarous would have been considered absurdly eccentric.

The Grand National fences are formidable, and significant alterations were effected 30 years ago in response to public opinion. However, the death of the good-looking grey, Dark Ivie, at Becher's Brook in 1987 and two more horses at the same fence last year provoked a public outcry which the authorities could not ignore.

Over the past 20 years, 13 horses have died in the Grand National, six of them at Becher's Brook, and, after the 1989 race, the Jockey Club and Aintree management met to discuss improvements to the fence. As a result, changes to the immediate environment of Becher's should reduce the number of horses who fall and help eliminate fatalities.

John Parrett, manager and clerk of the course at Aintree, believes the alterations will be successful. "The Grand National is an athletic contest which should produce the best horses on the day, and failure should not be punished by fatality."

"In any competition, there's an element of danger, but the conditions and the environment should be as safe as they can be made. The challenge of Becher's remains the same, but the horse who falls should come to less harm."

Parrett is an accomplished horseman who accepts that some will continue to view the risks as unacceptable. "It's very difficult to know where to draw the line; obviously, public opinion plays an important role."

It may come as a surprise that he believes the course to be fairer than some. "The Grand National fences, because of their construction, are more consistent than at any other course. Our drainage

means that the going is more consistent. The course is known in advance and horses can be properly prepared for it."

In addition to changes at Becher's and other fences, the authorities have insisted regulations under which only riders of proven experience and horses of significant ability are permitted to take part. The combined effect of the changes should enhance the long-term reputation of the race.

A television audience of 12 million in Britain and 400 million worldwide will watch the Grand National and among them will be John Bryant, wildlife officer for the League Against Cruel Sports.

Recently, he was quoted as saying that it was an appalling indictment of the human race that it treated animals, particularly sensitive animals like horses, as pieces of sporting equipment, which could be destroyed and replaced.

This is the very stuff to spread apoplexy in the shires, but Bryant is an articulate advocate of his cause, and he believes that the time is right to bring a prosecution under the 1911 Act for unnecessary cruelty. "All the time, the Act allows the public to re-assess what is unnecessary cruelty. Technically, it is illegal under the Act to beat a horse and in the Grand National animals are put at risk for entertainment."

"People object to making a game out of animals, and suffering, even if it is accidental, is not acceptable in 1990. Over-riding a horse is specifically written into the Act, yet horses are driven to pull out the last of their reserves. It's appalling that a fellow species is regarded as expendable."

While Bryant is viewing the race from his armchair, Bernard Donigan will be standing at Becher's Brook in his capacity as the North-West regional superintendent of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Donigan, aged 64, will carry out his official duties for the last time, but he hopes to attend as many future Grand Nationals as nature allows. "We've been making representations for some time, and there has been an undeniable groundswell of public opinion, but I must say that I'm impressed by what has been done," he said.

Donigan was a horseman in the Army and his 35 years with the RSPCA has attended 22 Grand National meetings. He is a great supporter of racing. "I would never agree to horses being abused. Racing people benefit from horses. They grow up with them, work with them, spend their whole lives with them."

The empirical evidence suggests that horses derive some enjoyment from racing. On

the flat, most horses who lose a jockey during a race finish the contest. In steeplechasing, including the Grand National, many riders scramble to their feet and follow the field over the fences, slowing to a trot when they tire.

If an accident does mar

today, it will be a useful statistic for the extremists; to some, it will mean nothing more than another losing betting slip. But to most of the crowd, it will be as deeply felt as the loss of a friend.

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

THE TIMES GUIDE TO 1992

BRITAIN IN A EUROPE WITHOUT FRONTIERS
A Comprehensive Handbook

by RICHARD OWEN and MICHAEL DYNES

The only handbook to provide clear and straightforward information on all aspects of the Single European Market.

£5.95 paperback. 238 pages

Available from all good bookshops
TIMES BOOKS
100, Pall Mall, London W1

A to Z analysis of the big-race runners

Previous Grand National form in brackets, most recent on right

ALAN THE GRAY (---) Broke a long sequence winning over almost three years when successful at Wolverhampton in February. Thorough stayer trained for the race. David Nicholson's second string.

BARTRES (---) Well behind when pulled up last year. Outsider then and among the longshots again this year.

BIGGUN (---) Won the Ritz Club Chase at Cheltenham (a good National guide) in course record time on his latest start. Surged by fast ground, a sound jumper and stays well. Preferred by Richard Dunwoody (successful on West Tip in 1986) to the stable's other runner, Against The Grain. Has a first-class chance.

BOB TISDALE (---) Bold jumper in good form early this season, but out of sorts recently. Well beaten at Cheltenham last time. Refused early on in last year's National.

BONANZA BOY (---) High-class stayer who gained second consecutive Welsh National success in December. Never dangerous in last month's Cheltenham Gold Cup. Eighth here a year ago and trained for the race since. Represents the formidable team of Martin Pipe and Peter Scudamore, riding in his tenth consecutive National. Has top weight and would prefer softer ground, but Pipe is confident of Bonanza's Boy chance. One for the short list despite the reservations.

BROWN WINDSOR (---) Trained by Nicky Henderson, who has provided second, third and fifth in the last five Nationals. Proven stayer suited by fast ground. Mount of John White, who has completed in five of his six National rides, including a second on The Tarsarich three years ago. Sound jumper with knack of looking after himself. Worthy favourite.

CALL COLLECT (---) Top-class hunter chaser successful over the National fences in the Fox Hunters last year. Won the equivalent race at the Cheltenham festival last month. Connections will not hear of defeat, but lack of handicap

experience is against him. Not certain to be as well suited by fast ground as some of his rivals. Ridden by 45-year-old Irish amateur Raymond Martin.

CHARTER HARDWARE (---) Dogged stayer lacking in pace. Better suited by soft ground. Long shot to change John Edwards' fortunes in what has been an unlucky race for him.

CONCLUSIVE (---) Gordon Richards' second-string to Rissus. Has ability but is prone to mistakes; a luxury he cannot afford here. Jockey Steve Smith. Ridden by third-year apprentice on Classified.

COURSE HUNTER (---) Made a remarkable recovery to finish eighth after almost falling at Becher's second time round two years ago. Injured earlier this season and trainer David Murray Smith fears the race may have come just too soon.

DURHAM EDITION (---) Has looked the winner of the last two Nationals only to falter in the closing stages. Caught close home by Rhyme 'N' Reason two years ago, and tired on soft ground a year ago after going well tiring for home. Suited by fast going. Likely to make a bold attempt to give Arthur Stephenson, 70 today, a memorable birthday present.

GAINSAID (---) Fell nineteenth last year when in touch. Ran over hurdles last week, an unorthodox preparation. Probably best of Jenny Pitman's team as she attempts to add a second National to Corbiere's 1983 win. Owned by Errol Brown, of pop group Hot Chocolate.

GALA'S IMAGE (---) Represents first-season trainer John McMonaghe. Quietly fanned last year (trained by Mercy Russell) but mostly disappointing this season.

GALLIC PRINCE (---) Bold challenge by champion Spanish amateur rider Jose Sarda, carrying the colours of Iberian Airlines. Outsider.

GEE-A (---) Ran well for a long way two years ago but the glorious days of Cheltenham and Liverpool wins seem to be behind him.

GHOFAH (---) David Elsworth and Brendan Powell, successful two years ago with

Rhyme 'N' Reason, combine again. Won the competitive Hennessy Gold Cup in November. Well handicapped but lacks Rhyme 'N' Reason's class. Worked abysmally during the week, which is apparently a good sign for him. Would be the first winning seven-year-old for 30 years. Each-way possibilities.

HUNGARY HUR (---) Irish-trained outsider who would prefer softer ground. First National runner for John Mulhern. Mount of Tommy Carmody, second in 1984 on Greenpeace. Prone to mistakes.

LAST OF THE BROWNIES (---) The best of the Irish chasers. Fell three or four times holding every change two years ago, and plugged on into fourth last season. One of the better bets to get round.

MICK'S STAR (---) Lightly raced but remains ability. Fell only start this season. Would be a marvellous training feat by Jimmy Fitzmaurice if he won.

MONANORE (---) Aintree stalwart: contesting fifth National (also eighth in 1986). Safe jumper, but not getting any faster. Tommie, on board two years ago, takes over from the injured Gee Armytage.

MR FRISK (---) Flamboyant jumper who loves fast ground. Thrilling ride in prospect for amateur Marcus Armytage.

NAUTICAL JOCKEY (---) Outsider of Arthur. Second time in three entries. Jockey Brian Storer, no stranger to surprise results, rode a 100-1 winner on the first day of the meeting.

POLYFEMUS (---) Firm National runner for Michael Robinson. Jockey Richard Rowe, three times a first-floor departure, would welcome a change of luck. Improving, but still relatively inexperienced. Each-way prospect.

PURKA MAJOR (---) Once useful but not thoroughgoing. Predictable. Has developed an aversion to starting.

RINUS (---) Likely to make a bold effort to give Gordon Richards a third National following Lucius (1978) and Halo Dandy (1986). Can cope with any going, but best form on soft. Mount of Neale Doughty, who has completed on all his six National starts, including Halo Dandy.

ROLL-A-JOINT (---) Has failed to recapture the sparkle of last season's seven wins, including the Scottish National. Thorough stayer whose prospects would improve if the ground became soft.

SACRED PATH (---) Fell at the first when favourite two years ago. Has been injured and is lightly raced since.

SER JEST (---) Has had two unhappy experiences here and has shown signs of temperament this season. Not the ideal combination.

VALANTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

VALENTINES (---) Irish-trained outsider travelling in hope more than expectancy.

A ba
In November
seems only the
first West In
hundred first
foot, who has
one hundred
a remark

at Rover
is at the

...the West...
...hundred first...
...four, who has...
...one hundred...
...a remark...

Ludlow (1.45); Pegues, Gals. (1.16)
Horwood, Sm W Blatchey (2.0); South-
down and Edige, Heathfield, 1m E of
Jom (2.1); Spenners and West Burn-
ham, Chertbrook, Sm NE Trindam

1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25
 26
 27
 28
 29
 30
 31
 32
 33
 34
 35
 36
 37
 38
 39
 40
 41
 42
 43
 44
 45
 46
 47
 48
 49
 50
 51
 52
 53
 54
 55
 56
 57
 58
 59
 60
 61
 62
 63
 64
 65
 66
 67
 68
 69
 70
 71
 72
 73
 74
 75
 76
 77
 78
 79
 80
 81
 82
 83
 84
 85
 86
 87
 88
 89
 90
 91
 92
 93
 94
 95
 96
 97
 98
 99
 100
 101
 102
 103
 104
 105
 106
 107
 108
 109
 110
 111
 112
 113
 114
 115
 116
 117
 118
 119
 120
 121
 122
 123
 124
 125
 126
 127
 128
 129
 130
 131
 132
 133
 134
 135
 136
 137
 138
 139
 140
 141
 142
 143
 144
 145
 146
 147
 148
 149
 150
 151
 152
 153
 154
 155
 156
 157
 158
 159
 160
 161
 162
 163
 164
 165
 166
 167
 168
 169
 170
 171
 172
 173
 174
 175
 176
 177
 178
 179
 180
 181
 182
 183
 184
 185
 186
 187
 188
 189
 190
 191
 192
 193
 194
 195
 196
 197
 198
 199
 200
 201
 202
 203
 204
 205
 206
 207
 208
 209
 210
 211
 212
 213
 214
 215
 216
 217
 218
 219
 220
 221
 222
 223
 224
 225
 226
 227
 228
 229
 230
 231
 232
 233
 234
 235
 236
 237
 238
 239
 240
 241
 242
 243
 244
 245
 246
 247
 248
 249
 250
 251
 252
 253
 254
 255
 256
 257
 258
 259
 260
 261
 262
 263
 264
 265
 266
 267
 268
 269
 270
 271
 272
 273
 274
 275
 276
 277
 278
 279
 280
 281
 282
 283
 284
 285
 286
 287
 288
 289
 290
 291
 292
 293
 294
 295
 296
 297
 298
 299
 300
 301
 302
 303
 304
 305
 306
 307
 308
 309
 310
 311
 312
 313
 314
 315
 316
 317
 318
 319
 320
 321
 322
 323
 324
 325
 326
 327
 328
 329
 330
 331
 332
 333
 334
 335
 336
 337
 338
 339
 340
 341
 342
 343
 344
 345
 346
 347
 348
 349
 350
 351
 352
 353
 354
 355
 356
 357
 358
 359
 360
 361
 362
 363
 364
 365
 366
 367
 368
 369
 370
 371
 372
 373
 374
 375
 376
 377
 378
 379
 380
 381
 382
 383
 384
 385
 386
 387
 388
 389
 390
 391
 392
 393
 394
 395
 396
 397
 398
 399
 400
 401
 402
 403
 404
 405
 406
 407
 408
 409
 410
 411
 412
 413
 414
 415
 416
 417
 418
 419
 420
 421
 422
 423
 424
 425
 426
 427
 428
 429
 430
 431
 432
 433
 434
 435
 436
 437
 438
 439
 440
 441
 442
 443
 444
 445
 446
 447
 448
 449
 450
 451
 452
 453
 454
 455
 456
 457
 458
 459
 460
 461
 462
 463
 464
 465
 466
 467
 468
 469
 470
 471
 472
 473
 474
 475
 476
 477
 478
 479
 480
 481
 482
 483
 484
 485
 486
 487
 488
 489
 490
 491
 492
 493
 494
 495
 496
 497
 498
 499
 500
 501
 502
 503
 504
 505
 506
 507
 508
 509
 510
 511
 512
 513
 514
 515
 516
 517
 518
 519
 520
 521
 522
 523
 524
 525

2-1 Facility Letter, 7-2 Go Pathfinder, 18-1
s Prince, 18-1 others.

101
 102
 103
 104
 105
 106
 107
 108
 109
 110
 111
 112
 113
 114
 115
 116
 117
 118
 119
 120
 121
 122
 123
 124
 125
 126
 127
 128
 129
 130
 131
 132
 133
 134
 135
 136
 137
 138
 139
 140
 141
 142
 143
 144
 145
 146
 147
 148
 149
 150
 151
 152
 153
 154
 155
 156
 157
 158
 159
 160
 161
 162
 163
 164
 165
 166
 167
 168
 169
 170
 171
 172
 173
 174
 175
 176
 177
 178
 179
 180
 181
 182
 183
 184
 185
 186
 187
 188
 189
 190
 191
 192
 193
 194
 195
 196
 197
 198
 199
 200
 201
 202
 203
 204
 205
 206
 207
 208
 209
 210
 211
 212
 213
 214
 215
 216
 217
 218
 219
 220
 221
 222
 223
 224
 225
 226
 227
 228
 229
 230
 231
 232
 233
 234
 235
 236
 237
 238
 239
 240
 241
 242
 243
 244
 245
 246
 247
 248
 249
 250
 251
 252
 253
 254
 255
 256
 257
 258
 259
 260
 261
 262
 263
 264
 265
 266
 267
 268
 269
 270
 271
 272
 273
 274
 275
 276
 277
 278
 279
 280
 281
 282
 283
 284
 285
 286
 287
 288
 289
 290
 291
 292
 293
 294
 295
 296
 297
 298
 299
 300
 301
 302
 303
 304
 305
 306
 307
 308
 309
 310
 311
 312
 313
 314
 315
 316
 317
 318
 319
 320
 321
 322
 323
 324
 325
 326
 327
 328
 329
 330
 331
 332
 333
 334
 335
 336
 337
 338
 339
 340
 341
 342
 343
 344
 345
 346
 347
 348
 349
 350
 351
 352
 353
 354
 355
 356
 357
 358
 359
 360
 361
 362
 363
 364
 365
 366
 367
 368
 369
 370
 371
 372
 373
 374
 375
 376
 377
 378
 379
 380
 381
 382
 383
 384
 385
 386
 387
 388
 389
 390
 391
 392
 393
 394
 395
 396
 397
 398
 399
 400
 401
 402
 403
 404
 405
 406
 407
 408
 409
 410
 411
 412
 413
 414
 415
 416
 417
 418
 419
 420
 421
 422
 423
 424
 425
 426
 427
 428
 429
 430
 431
 432
 433
 434
 435
 436
 437
 438
 439
 440
 441
 442
 443
 444
 445
 446
 447
 448
 449
 450
 451
 452
 453
 454
 455
 456
 457
 458
 459
 460
 461
 462
 463
 464
 465
 466
 467
 468
 469
 470
 471
 472
 473
 474
 475
 476
 477
 478
 479
 480
 481
 482
 483
 484
 485
 486
 487
 488
 489
 490
 491
 492
 493
 494
 495
 496
 497
 498
 499
 500
 501
 502
 503
 504
 505
 506
 507
 508
 509
 510
 511
 512
 513
 514
 515
 516
 517
 518
 519
 520
 521
 522
 523
 524
 525
 526
 527
 528
 529
 530
 531
 532
 533
 534
 535
 536
 537
 538
 539
 540
 541
 542
 543
 544
 545
 546
 547
 548
 549
 550
 551
 552
 553
 554
 555
 556
 557
 558
 559
 560
 561
 562
 563
 564
 565
 566
 567
 568
 569
 570
 571
 572
 573
 574
 575
 576
 577
 578
 579
 580
 581
 582
 583
 584
 585
 586
 587
 588
 589
 590
 591
 592
 593
 594
 595
 596
 597
 598
 599
 600
 601
 602
 603
 604
 605
 606
 607
 608
 609
 610
 611
 612

RESOLUTION 19 (7,2,3) (97,3) T Barron 3-3-6
Alex Stephens (97)
TYPE 12 (2,2) (1,1) Head 5-3-3 T Chalm 3

11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25
 26
 27
 28
 29
 30
 31
 32
 33
 34
 35
 36
 37
 38
 39
 40
 41
 42
 43
 44
 45
 46
 47
 48
 49
 50
 51
 52
 53
 54
 55
 56
 57
 58
 59
 60
 61
 62
 63
 64
 65
 66
 67
 68
 69
 70
 71
 72
 73
 74
 75
 76
 77
 78
 79
 80
 81
 82
 83
 84
 85
 86
 87
 88
 89
 90
 91
 92
 93
 94
 95
 96
 97
 98
 99
 100
 101
 102
 103
 104
 105
 106
 107
 108
 109
 110
 111
 112
 113
 114
 115
 116
 117
 118
 119
 120
 121
 122
 123
 124
 125
 126
 127
 128
 129
 130
 131
 132
 133
 134
 135
 136
 137
 138
 139
 140
 141
 142
 143
 144
 145
 146
 147
 148
 149
 150
 151
 152
 153
 154
 155
 156
 157
 158
 159
 160
 161
 162
 163
 164
 165
 166
 167
 168
 169
 170
 171
 172
 173
 174
 175
 176
 177
 178
 179
 180
 181
 182
 183
 184
 185
 186
 187
 188
 189
 190
 191
 192
 193
 194
 195
 196
 197
 198
 199
 200
 201
 202
 203
 204
 205
 206
 207
 208
 209
 210
 211
 212
 213
 214
 215
 216
 217
 218
 219
 220
 221
 222
 223
 224
 225
 226
 227
 228
 229
 230
 231
 232
 233
 234
 235
 236
 237
 238
 239
 240
 241
 242
 243
 244
 245
 246
 247
 248
 249
 250
 251
 252
 253
 254
 255
 256
 257
 258
 259
 260
 261
 262
 263
 264
 265
 266
 267
 268
 269
 270
 271
 272
 273
 274
 275
 276
 277
 278
 279
 280
 281
 282
 283
 284
 285
 286
 287
 288
 289
 290
 291
 292
 293
 294
 295
 296
 297
 298
 299
 300
 301
 302
 303
 304
 305
 306
 307
 308
 309
 310
 311
 312
 313
 314
 315
 316
 317
 318
 319
 320
 321
 322
 323
 324
 325
 326
 327
 328
 329
 330
 331
 332
 333
 334
 335
 336
 337
 338
 339
 340
 341
 342
 343
 344
 345
 346
 347
 348
 349
 350
 351
 352
 353
 354
 355
 356
 357
 358
 359
 360
 361
 362
 363
 364
 365
 366
 367
 368
 369
 370
 371
 372
 373
 374
 375
 376
 377
 378
 379
 380
 381
 382
 383
 384
 385
 386
 387
 388
 389
 390
 391
 392
 393
 394
 395
 396
 397
 398
 399
 400
 401
 402
 403
 404
 405
 406
 407
 408
 409
 410
 411
 412
 413
 414
 415
 416
 417
 418
 419
 420
 421
 422
 423
 424
 425
 426
 427
 428
 429
 430
 431
 432
 433
 434
 435
 436
 437
 438
 439
 440
 441
 442
 443
 444
 445
 446
 447
 448
 449
 450
 451
 452
 453
 454
 455
 456
 457
 458
 459
 460
 461
 462
 463
 464
 465
 466
 467
 468
 469
 470
 471
 472
 473
 474
 475
 476
 477
 478
 479
 480
 481
 482
 483
 484
 485
 486
 487
 488
 489
 490
 491
 492
 493
 494
 495
 496
 497
 498
 499
 500
 501
 502
 503
 504
 505
 506
 507
 508
 509
 510
 511
 512
 513
 514
 515
 516
 517
 518
 519
 520
 521
 522
 523
 524
 525
 526
 527
 528
 529
 530
 531
 532
 533

Free meetings

10-10
 11-10
 12-10
 13-10
 14-10
 15-10
 16-10
 17-10
 18-10
 19-10
 20-10
 21-10
 22-10
 23-10
 24-10
 25-10
 26-10
 27-10
 28-10
 29-10
 30-10
 31-10
 32-10
 33-10
 34-10
 35-10
 36-10
 37-10
 38-10
 39-10
 40-10
 41-10
 42-10
 43-10
 44-10
 45-10
 46-10
 47-10
 48-10
 49-10
 50-10
 51-10
 52-10
 53-10
 54-10
 55-10
 56-10
 57-10
 58-10
 59-10
 60-10
 61-10
 62-10
 63-10
 64-10
 65-10
 66-10
 67-10
 68-10
 69-10
 70-10
 71-10
 72-10
 73-10
 74-10
 75-10
 76-10
 77-10
 78-10
 79-10
 80-10
 81-10
 82-10
 83-10
 84-10
 85-10
 86-10
 87-10
 88-10
 89-10
 90-10
 91-10
 92-10
 93-10
 94-10
 95-10
 96-10
 97-10
 98-10
 99-10
 100-10

(10-1); Tri Folens (10-1); 4- Trachium (5-1). 16 mm. NRs: Camden Hills, Northern Maine, 1911; N. M. & Wm. H. Whitcomb.

[illegible]

● André Fabre's *Crash* is the anticipated favourite for the £29,930 Prix d'Harcourt (100 at

fine
their

SECRET

[illegible]

form and prospects
of leading

24

A batting executioner with a swagger

In November, 1988, Viv Richards became only the 22nd player and the first West Indian to complete a hundred first-class centuries. David Foot, who has seen a great many of those hundreds, gives his assessment of a remarkable batsman.

There were times when peaks in Viv Richards' career seemed almost predestined. He told David Graveney in a room in the West Country that he would be making two hundred against Gloucestershire — and that was what he did next day. In the September of 1979, when Somerset acquired their first title after 104 years of futility and history and eternal optimism, those of us from down in the West Country knew Richards would excel. He gripped his bat tighter than usual, saying from the seventh till the last over to score 117 in the final of the Gillette Cup.

When it came to the first official Test in his native St John's in Antigua (against England in 1980-81) virtually every West Indian viewed a hundred from him as formality. Their evaluation, unfair to the player, was based on sentimental terms. He knew that his innings had to be a symbol of what his small island had achieved. It was an onerous responsibility for a proud Antiguan; he began with a flurry of uncharacteristically nervous fours, and then simply willed himself to stay there. He was conscious of what was expected of him. And he was graded to 114. It wasn't one of his best, but around the boundary there were unashamed tears in a black nation's eyes. Five years later, those tears were replaced by joyful laughter and thunderous noise as Viv treated his fellow Antiguan by devastating the England bowlers, scoring the fastest hundred in Test cricket in terms of balls received: just 56. It was among the most wonderful innings ever played.

At Sydney, in November 1988 against New South Wales, Richards became the first West Indian to complete 100 first-class hundreds. In his previous innings — the first of the tour — he had fashioned his 99th, against South Australia. Clearly the prognostications had gone on long enough. That particular landmark was overdue. In any case, he hated all the talk about records.

His inclusion, as No. 22 on the illustrious list, was always a matter of inevitability. Judged by his own expensive, often sublime, at times savage standards, the surprise was that the milestone took him so long. It was still achieved after only 638 innings. Yet, for the mind, the mood, the finesse and the circumstances, he had combined rather remarkably. His statistics would have carried a greater dramatic eloquence. As it was, only Bradman (295), Compton (552), Huron (619) and Boycott (645) had got there in fewer innings. Of that contrasting quartet, he would be most flattered to be compared with Compton, because of his impish disregard for reputation and his innate sense of adventure. There was a time, early in his career, when Richards was being dubbed "the black Bradman". It was an absurd analogy: their styles and attitudes were so dissimilar. Almost certainly the great Don kept a furtive eye on the scoreboard a great deal more than does Richards. I V A could actually look flustered, and that was an integral part of his charm and his genius.

His departure from Somerset and subsequent loss to county cricket probably robbed him of another 18 hundreds. Injuries and ill health over recent years have also restricted him. There are suggestions that the marvellous eyesight and the almost magical reflexes are at last on the decline, though no doubt he would contest such notions. Nearly half his hundreds were scored for Somerset, the county he loves so much. When he arrived in 1974, they seemed made for each other. He liked the gentle pace of market-

town Taunton, the chimney-rustic boundary bender, the apple-juice buzz of expectancy as overdrive success loomed. It was Richards and Botham growing up together, playing for two counties, doing wondrous deeds. Somerset had always liked batsmen who got on with it — from Sammy Woods to Wellard, Guy Earle to the tragic Harold Gimblett. Richards didn't just do that; he was the best in the world.

His first centuries were at Bristol and Bath, where this writer recalls the boyish excitement, tempered by disbelief, when word reached him that he was in the West Indian tour party for India. There was, too, the joy of seeing, at a rough count, 30 of his hundreds. They varied in quality, never in excitement. He did it without a helmet. The cap was straight and yet distinctive. In the way that caught Colin Cowdrey's eye when he first saw Richards, lean and cheerful, swinging a Caribbean bat that looked almost too heavy for him. In this country, the body filled out: the muscles flexed and the runs flowed. The aficionados nudged each other: to admire the sheer stillness of the man as he stood at the crease waiting for the bowler, then the instinctive way he got into position so quickly to play his shot. Somehow he was conjuring up half-volleys when they did not exist. He was hitting beautifully through the covers. And, most beguilingly of all, he was hitting across the front foot. He was defying generations of coaches as he clipped the off-stump ball through mid-wicket.

Richards has changed rather more as a man than as a player. He may not be able to pick up the direction and guile of the hurdlers ball quite so quickly, but the inclination to dominate the duel with the bowler will never lessen. He makes good balls look like ordinary ones because his timing and shotwork have always been so immaculate.

Of his hundred centuries, 44 were scored for West Indies, exactly half of them in Test matches. No more than eight came from his appearances for Leeward Islands or Combined Islands. One of those was against Jamaica at St Kitts. Could there have been a few spectators present that day who had made the journey, a decade earlier, to see him play for Antigua against St Kitts? It was his first Test match and, for him, an infamous one. He refused to walk when given out. There were demonstrations and a two-hour delay. But then Richards has never been completely free of controversy. There have been racial taunts from Yorkshire crowds; angry words with opponents and umpires; the delay over his appointment as captain of West Indies; the acrimonious goodbyes at Taunton. The memory is long, the fuse can be short. The walk to and from the wicket carries a swagger that is seen, perhaps misinterpreted, as arrogance. That unrelenting cricketing diary all round the year has left him at times both weary and cynical.

Captaincy has not always gone easily for him. There must be difficulties on occasions in welding a common purpose from talented players of disparate temperaments and varying island loyalties. Inter-island rivalries do exist: political implications can be inhibiting. But he has an undeniable bonus. All West Indian cricketers respect their bountiful gifts. He can also be, when called for, the stresses and tensions, a charming and modest companion. He remains steadfastly loyal to his long-standing friends, going back to Rising Sun



Young pretender: Richards chose the West Country derby game against Gloucestershire at Bristol in 1974 as the occasion for his first century

HOW RICHARDS HAS BECOME THE MOST PROLIFIC BATSMAN IN WEST INDIAN CRICKET HISTORY

102 Somerset v Gloucestershire at Bristol	1974	108 Somerset v Leicestershire at Leicester	1979	178 West Indies v Australia at St John's, Antigua	1983-84
107 Somerset v Yorkshire at Bath	1974	156 Somerset v Middlesex at Lord's	1979	170 West Indies v Glamorgan at Swansea	1984
102 West Indies v West Zone at Pune	1974-75	157 West Indies v Tasmania at Devonport	1979-80	117 West Indies v England at Birmingham	1984
103 West Indies v North Zone at Jullundur	1974-75	140 West Indies v Australia at Brisbane	1979-80	102 West Indies v South Australia at Adelaide	1984-85
182 West Indies v India at Delhi	1974-75	131 West Indies v Northamptonshire at Milton Keynes	1980	208 West Indies v Australia at Melbourne	1984-85
181 West Indies v Sri Lanka at Colombo	1974-75	145 West Indies v England at Lord's	1980	105 West Indies v New Zealand at Bridgetown	1984-85
112 Combined Islands v Guyana at St George's, Grenada	1974-75	100 West Indies v Glamorgan at Swansea	1980	186 Somerset v Hampshire at Taunton	1985
101 Combined Islands v Jamaica at St John's, Antigua	1974-75	103 West Indies v Somerset at Taunton	1980	105 Somerset v Yorkshire at Leeds	1986
217 Somerset v Yorkshire at Harrogate	1975	170 Somerset v Gloucestershire at Bristol	1980	322 Somerset v Warwickshire at Taunton	1985
188 Somerset v Gloucestershire at Taunton	1975	120 West Indies v Pakistan at Multan	1980-81	100 Somerset v Glamorgan at Cardiff	1985
182 Somerset v Kent at Folkestone	1975	168 Combined Islands v Trinidad & Tobago at Port of Spain	1980-81	135 Somerset v Middlesex at Lord's	1985
175 West Indies v Western Australia at Perth	1975-76	106 Combined Islands v Jamaica at Basseterre, St Kitts	1980-81	120 Somerset v Hampshire at Manchester	1985
180 West Indies v Tasmania at Hobart	1975-76	182 West Indies v England at Bridgetown	1980-81	123 Somerset v Derbyshire at Derby	1985
107 West Indies v Tasmania at Hobart	1975-76	114 West Indies v England at St John's, Antigua	1980-81	112 Somerset v Sussex at Taunton	1985
01 West Indies v Australia at Adelaide	1975-76	106 Somerset v Northamptonshire at Baff	1981	125 Somerset v Worcestershire at Taunton	1985
142 West Indies v India at Bridgetown	1975-76	118 Somerset v Worcestershire at Worcester	1981	132 Leeward Islands v Trinidad & Tobago, St Kitts	1985-86
130 West Indies v India at Port of Spain	1975-76	198 Somerset v Leicestershire at Leicester	1981	110 West Indies v England at St John's, Antigua	1985-86
175 West Indies v Hampshire at Southampton	1976	130 Somerset v Derbyshire at Taunton	1981	102 Somerset v Glamorgan at Cardiff	1986
119 West Indies v MCC at Lord's	1976	158 Somerset v Yorkshire at Sheffield	1981	136 Somerset v Glamorgan at Cardiff	1986
232 West Indies v England at Nottingham	1976	150 Somerset v Worcestershire at Weston-super-Mare	1981	128 Somerset v Kent at Bath	1986
135 West Indies v England at Manchester	1976	128 Somerset v Essex at Taunton	1981	115 Somerset v Warwickshire at Weston-super-Mare	1986-87
121 West Indies v Glamorgan at Swansea	1976	121 West Indies v Queensland at Brisbane	1981-82	117 West Indies v Sri Lanka at Napier	1986-87
143 Queensland v Pakistan at Brisbane	1976-77	167 Leeward Islands v Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua	1981-82	138 West Indies v India Under-25 XI at Chandigarh	1987-88
124 Combined Islands v Barbados at Bridgetown	1976-77	146 Somerset v Kent at Taunton	1982	108 West Indies v India at Delhi	1987-88
118 Somerset v Warwickshire at Taunton	1977	135 Somerset v Warwickshire at Birmingham	1982	119 Leeward Islands v Guyana at St John's, Antigua	1987-88
111 Somerset v Gloucestershire at Bristol	1977	181 Somerset v Pakistan at Taunton	1982	123 West Indies v Pakistan at Port of Spain	1987-88
104 Somerset v Leicestershire at Leicester	1977	178 Somerset v Lancashire at Taunton	1982	128 West Indies v Sussex at Hove	1988
204 Somerset v Sussex at Hove	1977	109 West Indies v India at Georgetown	1982-83	136 West Indies v South Australia at Adelaide	1988-89
101 Somerset v Warwickshire at Birmingham	1977	218 Somerset v Leicestershire at Leicester	1983	101 West Indies v New South Wales at Sydney	1988-89
180 Somerset v Lancashire at Southampton	1977	142 Somerset v Surrey at Taunton	1983		
204 Somerset v Surrey at Weston-super-Mare	1977	117 Somerset v Northamptonshire at Northampton	1983		
118 Somerset v Sussex at Hove	1978	128 Somerset v Northamptonshire at Weston-super-Mare	1983		
110 Somerset v Gloucestershire at Taunton	1978	103 Somerset v Kent at Taunton	1983		
118 Somerset v Yorkshire at Harrogate	1978	109 West Indies v South Zone at Hyderabad	1983-84		
		120 West Indies v India at Bombay	1983-84		

Of Richards' 100 hundreds, 80 were scored in England (47 for Somerset), 18 in the West Indies, 12 in Australia, 7 in India, 1 in New Zealand, 1 in Pakistan and 1 in Sri Lanka.

*figures not out

CC days at St John's or steel-band days when he tried to snatch some sleep at Bath while qualifying for Somerset.

Richards is self-critical and becomes anxious when his bad runs appear. Especially in his early years, he was apt to grow dejected. This was true of his opening tour, to India. Chandrasekhar got him cheaply twice, giving simple catches to extra cover and gully, in his debut Test. Back in the dressing room he slumped on the bench, convinced that his elevation from Rising Sun to Lansdown to Somerset to West Indies had been altogether too rapid, if not unrealistic. He needed an urgent pep talk from Clive Lloyd and Roy Fredericks to restore some semblance of confidence. It must have worked. He went out and in five hours made 192 not out in the

second Test, at Delhi. Soon he was taking hundreds off the Australians at Adelaide and the Indians in the first three Tests of the 1975-76 home series. Team morale had been suspect in Australia, and the matches with the Indians were not strong in cordiality. But Richards looked forward to the tour to England in 1976. The sun shone every day, and he took double-hundreds off England's bowlers at Trent Bridge and The Oval.

Despite the frenetic car journeys from one match to the next — Brian Close had been his driver and mentor in the first few years for Somerset — Richards liked the ambience of county cricket. He looked tired some mornings, but he slept deeply in a corner of the dressing room between innings and wickets. He never needed to acclimatize to the light or "psy-

che" himself for the task ahead on a turning wicket. He had beautiful co-ordination of movement and what he used to say was God-given eyesight.

While with Somerset he scored double-centuries against Yorkshire, Gloucestershire, Sussex, Surrey and Leicestershire. He punished with a geographically free-ranging democratic sense. At Taunton in 1985, Warwickshire's bowlers were made to look embarrassingly inadequate as he hit them for 322. It was a murderous innings, unique for the risible and effortless way he kept amassing fours and sixes. Yet it was never remotely a slog as we know it. The Somerset players lined up to applaud him in. One Warwickshire player told this writer: "I'm going to give up cricket. I realize, seeing Viv this

afternoon, that I should never have been a professional."

The first Test between Australia and West Indies, at Brisbane in November 1988, was Richards' 100th for his country. He garnished the occasion by becoming the tenth fielder only, other than a wicketkeeper, to take 100 Test catches. So how much longer: how many more hundreds, how many more catches? Or, indeed, as he assumes, the sustained inclination to overtake Bradman (117) by scoring more hundreds than any other overseas player. That would be an appropriate valedictory flourish.

The centuries list is peopled by many of the great names in cricket, chronologically starting with Grace and ending with Richards. It contains, arguably, better technicians, wiser purists and several infinitely duller accumulators of runs than I V A. Virtually uncoached and yet fear-somely artistic, he must surely still have the time, bravura and, one assumes, the sustained inclination to overtake Bradman (117) by scoring more hundreds than any other overseas player. That would be an appropriate valedictory flourish.

David Foot's essay on Viv Richards is from *Wisden Cricketers Almanack 1990*, edited by Graeme Wright, published by John Wisden and Co (£18.50 cased, £13.50 soft cover) next week.

The marathon man keeps on running

By Michael Coleman

NOT everyone wishes a marathon were longer. But that was the feeling Anthony Williamson had when approaching Westminster Bridge in the London Marathon two years ago. "I wanted to push the finish line further away because I didn't want it to end. I was on such a high that day," he said.

This was surprising for a man of 47, married, with four children, and running his first marathon and who, until his acceptance, had done little sport "since and spoon with the under-16s". Williamson, a solicitor, of Arundel, West Sussex, and one of the Times/Unisys Fund Runners in the ADT London Marathon on April 22, became somewhat of a legend. He was an agent for Nationwide, the sponsor of the London Marathon entry forms. "I entered just as a gaggle and was surprisingly accepted. Of course, there was talk of a fiddle but it wasn't so," he said. "I had to get in some training so I donned pinnies and ran on the grass. Six weeks later, a physiotherapist told me: 'Give it up, you couldn't even walk, my legs were so far from running on the roads.'"

He persevered, however,

switching to the grass verges along the sea front at Lancing, and going up into the hills and through the woods. His time in London in 1988 was 4hr 42min, and that included walking. Bitten by the running bug, his horizon widened.

"The following October, we went to Venice — it's a city my wife and I love — and again I did 4:42. London rejected my entry in 1989 so we went to Paris the week after — it was the bicentennial of the storming of the Bastille — for another 4:42."

"That was followed by Berlin in October 1, where, whoopee, I did 4:02! What an atmosphere Berlin has. West or East? At Checkpoint Charlie, the border police kept us waiting an hour when our bus went through sightseeing. Six weeks later, my legs were so far from running on the roads."

By the time that happened,

marathon man Williamson was in New York intent on cracking four hours. He was out of luck. "They kept us hanging about in the cold at the start for four hours, and I just couldn't get going," he said. "The long avenues. You could see four miles up the road at one point. I finished in 4:20."

Marrakech in January was no better, more a Moroccan "happening". "There was a false start — we ran between two and three kilometres through the city before being stopped — then a second, confused start," Williamson said. "No toilets and no water after half-way. It was a proper Fred Karto's Circus. But unforgettable, nevertheless. I did 4:18."

London on April 22 ought to be better provided, Williamson, who will turn 50 this year, finds running has become part of his life, managing 10 miles each day and going into the hills on a Sunday — all of it alone. He takes Mondays off.

"I'm running London for the Shortbread Harbour Lifboat Appeal. They've had their present boat since 1967 and it has been launched 604 times with the saving of 360 lives. Eight medals for gallantry have been awarded. But it must be replaced as it's out of date."

"A new 47-foot Tyne-class boat, with all the latest sonic and radar gear, has been ordered and should be in service in July. With a top speed of 18 knots and diesel tanks holding 612 gallons, it will be a big improvement."

"But it's costing £390,000. Half of this is covered by a legacy but the rest has to be found by fund-raising, donations and by public support. Lifboat crews are all volunteers and the Royal National Lifboat Institution exists entirely on voluntary contributions. Fortunately it is dear to many people. It provides a service second to none."

The Times and Unisys — the official ADT London Marathon computer service — hope that by featuring the efforts of our 12 fund runners we will help them find sponsorship.

If you want to support one or more of them, write clearly stating your beneficiaries to: The Times/Unisys London Marathon Appeal, Sports Department, The Times, Virginia Street, London E1 9JN. We will send on your donations.

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund-raiser of our 12, and a jetboon and megnum of champagne respectively to the second and third largest.



Beach boy: Williamson ploughs a lone trail in training

FISHING

Sports Council plans a study from all angles

By Conrad Voss Bark

YOU may well have forgotten, and how fortunate you are, that 10 years ago, a scientific survey found that most of Britain's three million anglers were of doubtful virtue. It also found out that fishing was, in the main, the sole purpose of going fishing and that the only other activities that took place were eating and drinking.

It took several thousand pounds and the activities of a number of social scientists to make these unremarkable discoveries. The social scientists also thought that anglers on the whole were rather selfish chaps. They would go off fishing by themselves or with a gang and leave their wives and children neglected at home. That is what they meant. What they actually said was: "The current norm of the angling sub-culture appears to run contrary to current social trends."

It was difficult reading. Some of it had to be translated into English. "The social scientific sub-culture puts up barriers of its own against a easy understanding of its current norms."

However, it did its best. It produced a 150-page report of the report and their conclusions admirable turbidity which must have satisfied its sponsors. The Angling Foundation, the Water Research Centre, the Water Space Amenities Commission, the Sports Council, and the National Anglers' Council.

One cannot help wondering what good came of it. The report was greeted with puzzled and respectful reviews.

The marketing men must have held long conferences on the report and their conclusions minutely and forgotten. In fact, though it may be heresy to doubt the value of surveys, as the social scientists themselves would argue, one cannot help coming to a conviction that the whole thing was a waste of time.

However, the idea of in-depth studies of angling persists. The Sports Council has come up with another study, this time of the future of angling. It should keep everyone happy for at least a year.

● TRIPS TO THE CELLARS
● JAZZ IN NEW ORLEANS

TRAVEL

In the first of a series on six great cities of the world, Charles Bremner reports from New York — where to shop and stay, what to see, and the best brunch in town

The greatest and worst show on earth

When McDonald's hamburgers are being cooked from Manchester to Moscow, and the symbols of American consumer bliss are flooding even the most remote lands, there may be few truly romantic cities left to explore. New York is one of them.

New York remains both the greatest of American cities and easily the least "American" of them all. Still a metropolis like none other on earth, it has resisted that rush to suburban comfort that has coloured US life since the war and accelerated in the Eighties with the "malling of America" — the explosion of shopping centres and restaurants that removed any need for the middle class to go to town for much except work.

It is an uncomfortable town, a city of extremes where the very rich and the very poor mix in narrow streets, rubbing shoulders because, unlike anywhere else except parts of San Francisco or Boston, walking is often the best way to get about.

It is the jumble of cultures and languages that gives New York its exhilarating and unnerving flavour. Go to Moscow and you expect to find a Russian taxi driver who knows how to get to Red Square. Come to New York and the chances are your driver will also be Russian, if not Haitian or Syrian, and it would not be unusual for him to be unable to find the Brooklyn Bridge, even if he knows enough English to understand your request. Pleading that you are a foreigner is no good, since it seems almost everyone is a newcomer. Though a source of intimidation, it is also one of the city's charms that, from arrival, everyone is assumed to be a New Yorker.

Hidiously ugly, passionately beautiful, you can decide New York is both at once without fearing contradiction. After all, Le Corbusier called it a "beautiful catastrophe". Beguiling, gaudy, dynamic, violent... all the old adjectives still apply as much in 1990 as they did when people first used them in the 19th century.

If you want a flavour of America in its pioneer days, a rougher place full of energy, New York is the place to find it. Yet, it is violent and suffering now from an epidemic of beggars and the blight of a crack-addicted "underclass". But it always had its raw side, its quality of "Bagdad on Hudson", as O. Henry once called it. They complained just as hard about the illiterate underclass in the late 19th century, only in those days, it referred to the residue of the huddled masses from Central Europe who crammed into the tenements of lower Manhattan, spreading crime and alcoholism.

New York has always swayed on the brink of chaos and the locals relish the fact. They take a perverse pride in the idea of the city as decaying from had to awful, the notion that they have not just the best, as they do, from restaurants to shows to shops, but also the worst of everything, such as rudest cab drivers, noisiest subways, meanest streets.

It is not, in fact, such a daunting place. Last year, when New York ranked third



Magnet for huddled masses: windswept perspective on Wall Street and Lower Manhattan from the Brooklyn Bridge, looking west; Fifth Avenue, Broadway and the Empire State Building are further north

in a magazine list of Best Mannered Cities in America, New Yorkers were indignant. "Is Beirut second?" asked one

irate columnist. Another suggested that, perched on the thought, "creeping Torontoism" might be setting in. The last straw came when *Savvy* magazine rated the city as one of the best for single women to live. In fact, for all the horror stories, New York ranks overall about 10th most dangerous of American cities, well behind Miami, Detroit, Washington and central Los Angeles. The crime rate has recently picked up after a long fall through the Eighties, but still, few urban centres are more secure at night than the lively streets of mid-town Manhattan. Real danger does, however, lurk for the foolhardy who stray into quieter areas at night or anywhere in the subway system after mid-evening.

Everyone has his picture of New York, or at least of Manhattan, the smallest in size of the five boroughs that sit on three islands and a chunk of mainland tenuously anchored by bridges and tunnels to the American continent. Manhattan's insular nature is a help to understanding its mystique. The place has about as much in common with the bleak New Jersey shore a few hundred yards

from the old liner docks on the Hudson as Venice does with its industrial neighbour Mestre.

Those New York images are all true since you can find everything and everyone in the Big Apple. The city acquired that nickname, incidentally, early this century to denote its rank as the top of everything, the place where you had finally made it. For Americans as a whole and for many in the world of finance, fashion or entertainment Manhattan can still claim that status.

With its towering canyons, potholed streets and belching steam vents, Manhattan at dusk can conjure all the horrors of urban nightmare beloved of the cop movies and the Thirties futurists. That vision of Gotham City, the sinister art deco slum, was the one so well caricatured in last year's *Batman* film. A more pedestrian variation can be found in the subway system, whose mixture of menace and clattering trains tells you as much about old New York as you can taste of Victorian London from the old stations of the Bakerloo line.

But New York is also the glitter of Fifth Avenue in the Christmas shopping season or the elegance of Park Avenue and the Grand Central Station whose great concourse has just been refurbished and is well worth a visit. Look back at those stylish films of the Fifties such as *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and you recognize a New York that still exists. Wander up Park Avenue and you will find the old style, like the doorman at the palatial apartment buildings who step out to open the limousine doors for their well-to-do tenants.

London may have lost the bowler, but in New York, you still see plenty of well-tailored young men striding to their offices with the old grey fedoras and Homburgs. In fact you will see more now than 15 years ago since the affluent Eighties, with their back-to-the-future fashions, helped restore much of the gloss Manhattan had lost during its 1970s financial crisis.

Broadway may have lost its splendour, but for all the taints of the porn shows and adult bookshops, it is still home to the best theatrical and musical talent of America. You can still sit in the art deco elegance of the Rainbow Room atop the Rockefeller Centre — albeit now owned by the Japanese — and look out on the skyscrapers, those vertical cathedrals like Woolworth Building and the Empire State that gave the city its magic. Their impact was never dimmed by the slab-like towers of the international school that came later to dominate all those other cities that like to boast of being the

Manhattan of their particular part of the world.

Ask any New Yorker for his favourite and you will probably be told the Chrysler building, an ode to the optimism of the machine age. Ideally, you should stick some Gershwin in your Walkman before glancing skyward to examine the extraordinary cacophony of gargoyles and gigantic stainless steel spokes that spring from what look like Aztec hubcaps at its summit.

There can be few more breath-taking sights than a glimpse of the Chrysler building at night, jutting from the skyline as you approach the Mid-town tunnel on your way in through Queens from La Guardia or Kennedy airports. (Even as a biased New Yorker of three years' standing, I am moved by the spectacle.)

NEW YORK: WHAT TO DO AND WHERE TO GO

Just about any time of year is good for visiting New York, except July and August, the months of high heat and humidity when the natives do their best to keep out of town. Spring and autumn are the easiest, though the city works some of its richest charm in the dark and often bitterly cold months of winter.

HOTELS

De luxe: The Carlyle, 35 East 75th at Madison Avenue (744 1800). Elegant old-world establishment on Upper East Side, frequented by "old money" Americans and celebrities escaping from the gritty palaces of Mid-town. Usually rated in the top two or three hotels in New York. Medium price: The Omni Berkshire Place (pronounced to rhyme with "park"), 21 East 52nd between Madison and Fifth Avenue (753 5800). Comfortable and well-run right in the heart of the most elegant Mid-town shopping area. Described by *Zagat's*, the top local guide, as "one of New York's best-kept secrets". Budget: Pickwick Arms (355 0300). Minimum facilities, but clean and friendly, and located at 230 East 51st Street, a pleasant Mid-town street near Bloomingdale and other big shops. Frequented by the young and by budget-conscious families.

RESTAURANTS/ NIGHT-TIME ENTERTAINMENT

This is New York's strongest suit. The variety is so great that it is hard to pick out a few to recommend. You name the cuisine and you can find a world-class establishment. If you like Japanese, try one of the dozens of good sushi establishments which are sprinkled over the Mid-town area. Prices are much lower than in London. The big-name restaurants are mentioned in all the guides: Lutece, Café des Artistes

(for watching celebrities), the Russian Tearoom, Four Seasons, etc. For old New York style, try dining and dancing at the Rainbow Room, just re-opened in original 1930s décor, atop Rockefeller Centre, at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 65th floor. It's close to the Radio City Music Hall, which is the home of the best variety acts, and Broadway is nearby. Though it is a well-known old fixture, the Carnegie Deli, 854 Seventh Avenue at 55th Street, in the midst of the theatreland, is the place for a taste of classic New York "deli" cuisine — corned-beef on rye, bagels and lox, etc. If you want to try real "neighbourhood" type dining — places with absolutely no tourists — I would suggest two good local Italian in the less elegant Gramercy Park area between Mid-town and the Village. Anthony's Sal at Irving Place (18th Street just off Park Avenue) is usually full, so you need to book (862 9050). Frank's Trattoria (on 37th 1st Avenue at 21st Street) is simple back-room Italian with excellent service (walk through the pizza parlour). No need to book. Try the angel-hair pasta and shrimp. Cash only.

For a fashionable younger crowd, the hot restaurant-club of the moment is Lucky Strike on Grand Street and West Broadway in SoHo, which is owned by Keith McNally, one of the two British McNally brothers. Closes at 4am.

150 Wooster (Wooster Street), brother Brian McNally's place in SoHo, is trendiest of all, but very difficult to get a table unless you are either a celebrity or well-connected. Flamingo East at Second Avenue and 13th Street is the place to rub shoulders with designers, models, artists. Delia's, a candle-lit supper-club on 3rd Street and Avenue C, is a good place to meet people. Run by an Irish woman, it is a mix of Downtown bohemian life and well-heeled young professional types enjoying the adventure of dining in the

particularly in recent years as anyone will know who has read Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities*, or who watches the breathless and lurid tales chronicled by the anchormen of the nine or 10 local television news stations. Since its first Dutch origins, the city has played haven to the poor and ambitious from around the world. It is now in the throes of one of its biggest waves of immigration since the influx of Irish and Germans in the mid-1800s and the Jews and Italians at the turn of the century.

The difference now is that the big majority of the newcomers are from Latin America, Asia and elsewhere in the Third World. If you fail to get the message above ground, look at the advertising in the subway. About half is in Spanish. Unlike earlier

generations of immigrants, much of the new influx are not only industrious but relatively educated. They are adding a new layer to the city life, sometimes replacing old immigrant trades like the Jewish firms of the garment district on Broadway between Greenwich Village and mid-town. Indians and Pakistanis seem to have established a monopoly over newspaper kiosks, new arrivals have expanded Chinatown well into Little Italy and the Koreans have opened so many 24-hour food shops that you can almost buy as easily at 3 am as during the day.

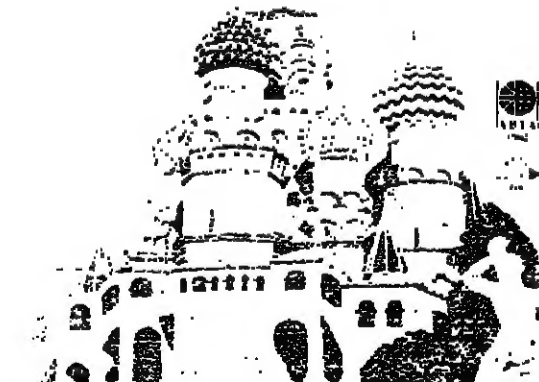
It was the abundance of food on offer at such an all-night Korean deli that convinced Boris Yeltsin, the Moscow politician, last September that his country had truly lost the Cold War.

For a real taste of New York variety, it is worth venturing beyond Manhattan to the new "ghettos" like Brighton Beach in Brooklyn, a district which has been taken over since the mid-Seventies almost entirely by Soviet immigrants. In Queens, the biggest of the boroughs, you can find a stretch of Greece in Astoria.

Yeltsin was on to something. New York, the "city that never sleeps", is enjoying a boom of night-time everything, from bookshops to clubs to television shows. From the edge of the financial district up through SoHo and the Village to the yuppified zones near Harlem, supper clubs and intimate *boites* of every variety are doing hectic business for those with enough stamina or no job to go to in the morning.

CHINAHA

or as we say in English-DISCOUNT



If you rush to the phone or your local ABTA Travel Agent, you can book a seven day holiday to Moscow and Leningrad, and save £85 off our brochure price.

You will depart from Gatwick and fly to Moscow, where you can spend 3 days sightseeing, take the overnight train to Leningrad, and another 3 days just relaxing, taking in the history and the sights. This tour gives you the chance to see two of the world's most fascinating capitals.

Departure dates are May 5, 12, 19, 26 and June 2, 9, 16, 23.

Don't delay, rush to your local ABTA Travel Agent to book now, or ring 01-538 3202 daytime for the holiday of a lifetime and a saving of £85.



Intourist

YOUR NO.1 TO THE SOVIET UNION
INTOURIST HOUSE, 219 MARSH WALL, LONDON EC4A 3DF

Egypt from only £299.
Now you could afford to take mummy.



Price for 7 nights bed and breakfast in a twin-bedded room at the Hilton Hotel, Luxor departing 4 May-31 August. For full details see your travel agent or call us on 01-387 1900. Holidays subject to availability. Thomson Holidays Ltd. ATOL 152. ABTA 58213.

Art Treasures Tours of Turkey. P&O

Explore the ancient sites and spectacular countryside of Turkey on a Swan Hellenic art treasures tour. There are three different itineraries, 'Anatolia', 'Ionian & Lycian Turkey' and 'Eastern Turkey', ranging from 17 to 28 days, with departures in May, June, August, September and October.

For further details call SWAN HELLENIC 01-231 1816.
77 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PP.

TRAVEL

Most wine tours I have been on have been jolly events balanced between dry cellar tours and enjoyably liquid lunches. Any dreary spots can usually be ditched in favour of an afternoon in the sun and, as it is hard to be unsociable over a glass of wine, these holidays are splendid for people on their own.

This year, the prize for the most unusual and expensive goes to Goodwood Travel, Concorde House, Stour Street, Canterbury, Kent. It has organized a day-trip to Bordeaux on Concorde on Sunday, September 9. For £1,150 and a 6.30am start, you get the Concorde return flight plus a visit to the St Emilion district, a tour of Château Beau Séjour Becot, a six-course banquet at Château de Vayres and a quick trip round Bordeaux city.

Abercrombie & Kent, Sloane Square House, Holbein Place, London SW1, is running two wine tours to Burgundy. The six-night trip aboard a well-equipped barge starts at Paris and includes visits to Chablis, Montrachet and Beaune, with wine talks and tastings en route from Peter and Penny Noble of The Grape Connection. The £1,576 cost includes return flights to Paris. Departures are on June 22 and October 18.

Also new this year are four short-break tours by Thresher. The cheapest is three days by coach to Champagne for £169 per per-

Quick trips to the cellar

son. The champagne houses Mercier and Louis Roederer are featured and breakfast and a champagne dinner on both nights is also included. Departures are April 28 and May 19. The four-day Bordeaux and Cognac tour, leaving on May 10, is also good value for money at £299 including flights. None of the tours is likely to give wine drinkers more than a taste for the region and its wines, but they are good value.

Contact Will Sadler, Banks Sadler, Pratt Mews, Camden Town, London NW1 for details.

Arbaster & Clarke, run by Tim Clarke and Lynette Arbaster, has more than a dozen different wine holidays including new tours to California, northern Spain and the central Loire. I liked the look of its September 1-3 champagne tour that takes in the majestic houses of Krug and Alfred Gratien for just £179. Then there is Barcelona-

plus the Penedès region, including leading producers. Forres and five firms such as Masures, on November 15-18 for £299. Celebrated Médoc properties, such as Palmer and Cheval-Blanc, are included in its September 5-9 Bordeaux trip (£409). Arbaster & Clarke's brochure is available at 104 Church Road, Steep, Petersfield, Hampshire.

The big name in wine holidays is World Wine Tours, 4 Dorchester Road, Drayton, Oxfordshire, run by Liz and Martin Hollis. These are aimed at fine wine drinkers

led by Masters of Wine and are more expensive than others. Still, WWT's informative trips manage to secure an entrée to all the best châteaux and look very imaginative. You can visit the Rhône valley and the Languedoc region with Master of Wine Clive Coates, taking in first-class Rhône producers such as

Guigal, Jaboulet and de Barjac as you go, plus the Languedoc's answer to Lafite, Mas de Deumas Cassac (£825, September 3-9).

Master of Wine Derek Smedley's visit to southern Tuscany and Umbria looks appetizing on October 1-5 (£695). It includes visits to Brunello di Montalcino producers Biondi Santi and Lasgarotti's fine estate at Torciano, and detours to Assisi and Giotto frescoes at Assisi.

Master of Wine Paul Tholen's trip to northern Portugal (£795, September 23-29) starts in Oporto and features dinner in the historic Factor's House, a tour of the vinho verde district and the post-war wine-producing Douro valley, topped by a trip to Taylor's fine Quinta da Vargateira, plus the Douro and Bairrada regions. The latter's amazing Balcão Palace Hotel, once a royal hunting lodge, is worth the trip alone.

If you have always wanted to stay in a French château to celebrate the Easter holidays, there is only one choice: Château Loudenne. (Further details from Château Loudenne, Saint-Yzans-de-Médoc, 33340 Lesparre; 010 33 56 09 05 03.) The five-day, easy-to-absorb Ecole du Vin courses, based at the château, are limited to 12 people and cost 9,500 francs each. Besides talks and tastings, there are visits to other Bordeaux properties such as de Pez, Giscours and Lafite.

Jane MacQuitty

An Easter on skis

For many resorts, Easter, traditionally the *fin de saison*, has become the peak period of the ski-year. Crowds this March, for example, were almost bigger than ever, and snow was good.

With spring skiing, however, British skiers have already thrown their hats in the garden shed. But the experience of the past few years suggests that it is time for us to adjust our skiing calendars to the mountain reality.

Some ski resorts have already done so. Former British downhill champion Bartłski admits to having had his best skiing of the new year in the snow after Easter. In the spring snow at Verbier.

Where to go is a decision made at the last moment, after checking directly with the resort, as this opens and closes according to rapidly changing conditions and demand. In general, smaller resorts at lower altitudes close earlier, usually just after Easter. Major resorts with glacier skiing such as Saas Fee and Zermatt, however, close.

Why go skiing at the tail end of the season? The day-light hours are longer, the snow is softer, the crowds are smaller, and the weather is usually better.

And crowds and prices are at their minimum.

These are the lazy, if seldom busy, days of skiing. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and wait for the frozen plates to melt. Finally the sun glows, south-west, at 10.30, and the spring glow gently softens into the most exhilarating and flattering texture an intermediate could imagine. In the afternoon, indulge in mogul mania in the security of soft-slush bumps.

April showers can translate into powder dumps at high altitudes. In the past three years, some of the best powder skiing in the Alps has been in the very last days of the season.

Cheapest skier: Staying out too long in the sun and the spring snow can be hazardous to your health. Glacier glasses, such as those made by Viarnet, with 100 per cent UV and infra-red protection and leather blinders at the sides, are advisable. By late afternoon the previously firm spring snow can turn into leg-breaking cement. And avalanches from sun-baked rocky promontories are frequent.

SWITZERLAND: Zermatt: No closing date; glacier skiing; spring snow best on Rothorn; spring helicopter skiing popular attraction (41 028 66 11 81).

Klosters: Closing April 22; spring skiing best on Madrisa (41 083 41 877). Saas Fee: No closing date; glacier skiing; views on seracs and open crevasses near piste (41 028 57 14 57).

Verbier: Closing May 6; Mont Fort sector closing after Easter week; vast spring skiing terrain (41 26 31 66 66).

AUSTRIA: St Anton: Closing end April; Rosd Beach sector best spring snow (43 5446 226 90). Kirchbach: Closing April 17; snow after Easter "a problem" (43 5356 21 55).

FRANCE: Chamonix: Closing around May 10, but flexible. Vallée Blanche may close earlier; Grands Montets famous for powder and spring snow late in season (33 5053 0024).

Val d'Isère: Closing May 8; promise no lift queues and all lifts open until end (33 7906 1083). Courchevel: Closing May 1; connections with Trois Vallées "usually" open until then (33 7908 0029).

ITALY: Bormio: Closing April 26; spring snow "not so bad" (39 342 903 300). Courmayeur: Closing "hopefully" May 6; access to Vallée Blanche (39 165 841 021).

Doug Sager

TRAVEL NEWS

Counting the cost

Holidays look like being more expensive next winter because of sterling's decline against major European currencies.

In the year to the end of March – the cut-off date used by tour operators for costing winter holidays – the pound depreciated by more than 14 per cent against local currency in skiing areas such as Austria, France and Italy. The decline was rather less for sunshine destinations, at about 12 per cent for Spain, 7.5 per cent for Portugal and 4.7 per cent for Cyprus.

Overall package price increases next winter will be cushioned by the fact that sterling has depreciated by only 4.5 per cent over the past year against the US dollar, the currency used for buying aviation fuel.

Price cuts to four US cities this summer have been announced by the charter flight specialist ASAT. The biggest savings are to Orlando and Los Angeles, which both have reductions of up to £70. In the case of Orlando, a week's car hire is now included in the fare, which starts at £329 return. The lowest New York fare is out by £50 to £199 return (0737 778560).

Philip Ray

Louisiana and a that ja

TWA

TWA to New York.

£249 return.

From May 1st you can fly TWA to New York for £249 return (plus £9.90 Airport Tax and £6 Security Charge). But don't think it over for too long. Tickets must be purchased by April 30th, and at least seven days prior to departure, and you must start your journey between May 1st and June 15th and complete all travel by June 30th 1990* TWA flies three times daily to New York and from June 1st is adding an extra flight. Call your travel agent now, or TWA on 01-439 0707.

TWA
For the best of America.

New York

Continued from page 57

Rugged American outdoor and sportswear is enjoying a fashion boom. In the more expensive ranges, try Timberland which is sold everywhere, but has a nice shop of its own on 709 Madison Avenue at 63rd. Cole Haen, close by at 667 Madison, is headquarters for handsome American-style loafers and country shoes for men and women. For stylish and high-quality classic American leather goods, it is worth a look at the main branch of the Coach Shop across the street at 710 Madison. For men's outdoor jackets and sweaters try Abercrombie and Fitch. In the South Street Seaport, a new waterside shopping area in Downtown, while there, look at the Brookstone gadget shop and the Sharper Image, which sells designer electronic goodies and other such items. For the broadest range of pure sporting clothes go to Farago on Broadway at 18th. Going downtown from there, it is worth a look at the shops of Greenwich Village and SoHo (which stands for "South of Houston Street" and has nothing to do with the London version). This area is New York's "Left Bank". If you want to disguise yourself in the native all-black leather and other garb, you can find everything you need in the shops on Broadway, below 8th Street and on West Broadway the other side of Houston.

Some of the most stylish country and hiking wear can be found at Eddie Bauer, the Seattle-based chain. The nearest store is just across the Hudson river in New Jersey, to be found in the Newport shopping mall, a big new shopping centre just the other side of the Holland tunnel. Not only is it spacious, being off Manhattan, but most of its goods carry little or no purchase tax. You can get a taxi to take you there – only 10 minutes from Manhattan, as long as it is not the rush hour.

For the more adventurous, I would suggest renting a car at one of the numerous Hertz, Avis or National locations around Manhattan. Car hire is far cheaper here than in Europe. Then you could drive up the Palisades Parkway and stop for a superb view of Manhattan from the cliffs on the other side. You could drive back across the George Washington Bridge or, better still, go further up the Hudson Valley, cross over into New York State at one of the bridges higher up, and come back down into Manhattan. At weekends, except in high summer, the traffic is not heavy.

TRANSPORT

Taxis are relatively inexpensive but be prepared for surly drivers. A majority are recent immigrants, few of whom speak much English. Traffic flows pretty well up and down town (on the avenues), but the cross streets are highly congested for much of the day. For getting around in mid-town, walking is still best. For travelling up and down town, the fastest method is the subway system. It is much less daunting than it looks at the outset. The fare is a flat \$1.15 (about 70p) in Manhattan. You use brass tokens which you buy at the token booth in any station. These can be used on the buses, which are also a convenient though less speedy form of transport. The subways are not dangerous during the day. They are worth avoiding after about 8pm.

GETTING THERE

British Airways' Poundstretcher offers a wide variety of holidays in the US for the independent traveller. Prices start at £699 for seven nights in New York, and £839 for a fly-drive holiday – flights, accommodation and car hire (including collision damage waiver). Poundstretcher: flights 0293-616060, holidays 0293-518022.

© The International telephone dialling code for New York is 0101 212.

In The Heart of Manhattan
The Lombardy Hotel
111 East 56th Street
New York, N.Y. 10022
Newly Renovated Luxurious Accommodation
Singles, Doubles, One and Two Bedroom Suites
Short or Long-term Rentals
All Hotel Services Available
At Reasonable Rates
The Laurent - 3 Star Restaurant
Please Call or Write for Information or Reservations
Phone: 212-753-8600
Fax: 212-754-5683
Toll Free: 800-223-5254 (USA Only)

The Lombardy

Tapas & Sevillanas
in Old Madrid
FERROTTI PHILLIPS
For a free copy of this evocative and beautifully written essay on Madrid, together with our brochure on individual, inclusive holidays to this colourful city.
Time Off
Chester Close, London
SW1X 7BQ. 01-239 6899
ABTA 58374

CLASSIC
TOURS
NEW ORLEANS & LOUISIANA
Discover the BAYOU & MISSISSIPPI
A 4 Day Tour from London
with a 12 Day
For details write/phone
01-434-1891
CLASSIC TOURS
67 Regent St. London W1B 5RL
ABTA 46485

At \$504
7900 simply Moscow

MOSCOW/LENINGRAD twin centres. Price for 2 nights accommodation sharing a twin room, 29 April-30 May 1990. CITYBREAKS apply for details of rail and air fares. Subject to availability. Thomson Travel Ltd. 0203-122 2222

01-439 0707

TRAVEL

Louisiana and all that jazz

New Orleans has changed its tune; it's louder, Richard Cavendish says. But the food sounds really great

Thirty years ago you could walk along Bourbon Street in New Orleans of an evening, going from bar to bar and listening to the music for which the city was famous. It was played by elderly, dignified black musicians, looking like Baptist Church deacons. Some of them looked so old that you wondered how they had the strength to raise their instruments, but the southern Louisiana jazz they played was real — loud, crude, vigorous, with none of its rough edges knocked off.

It might or might not be the music you would want to play to yourself at home on a record, but in its setting, alongside the Mississippi in a simple New Orleans bar on a hot night, it was magical.

The old gentlemen played trumpet, clarinet, trombone, piano, banjo, bass and drums. No saxophones. No amplified guitars. Few vocals. The music was played with minimal regard for the audience. Applause might be acknowledged with a curt nod of the bandleader's grizzled head. No one announced anything; the people in the audience were not told the names of the tunes or the names of the musicians. Sitting on your plain chair at your plain table, nursing your beer or whisky, you were a privileged spectator at a ritual which was being conducted for its own sake, not yours.

Now, the age of the tourist has dawned. Bourbon Street and its sister alleys are flashier than ever; demented neon signs wink on and off, strip joints nudge and wriggle. All

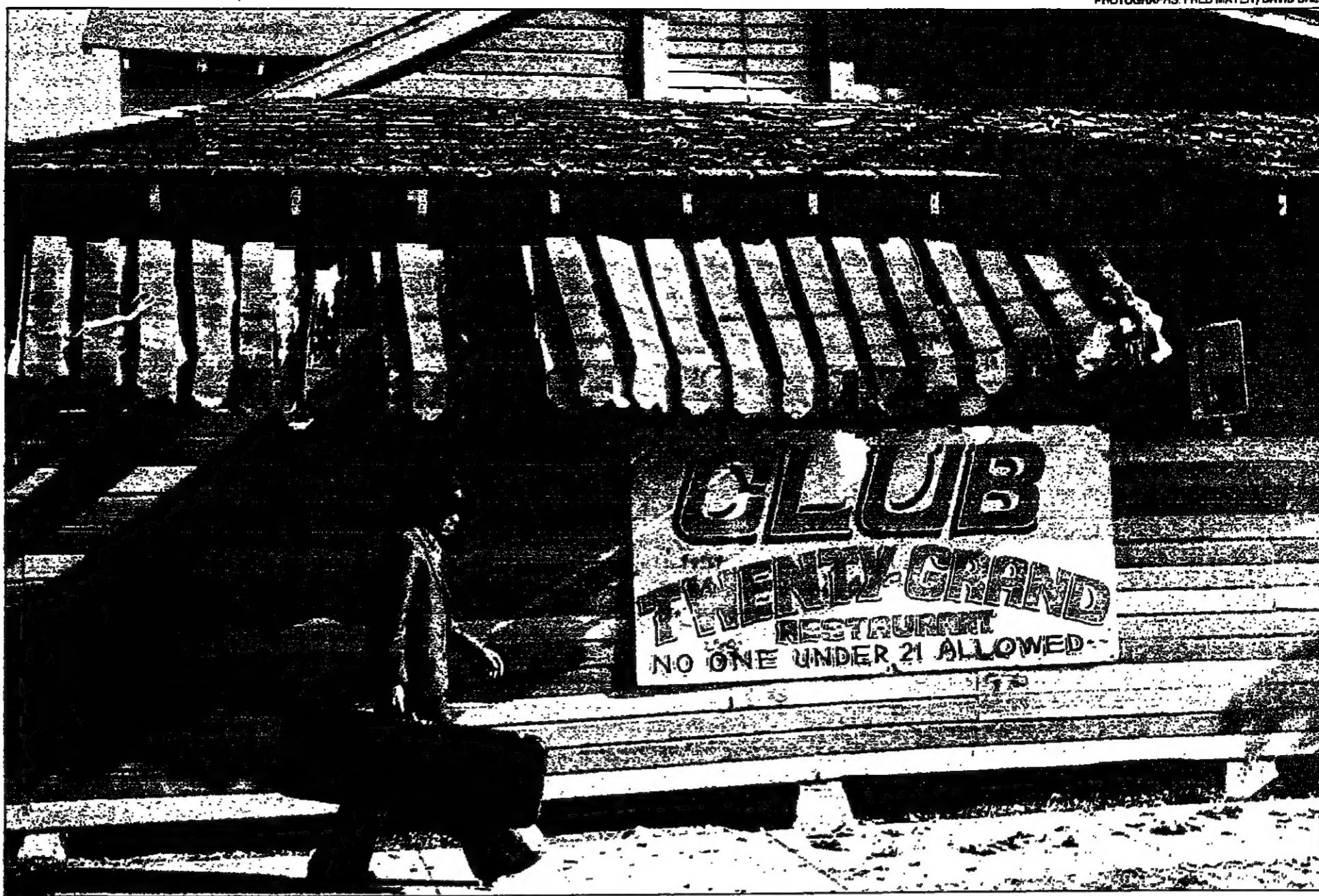
day and half the night music booms along the sidewalks and ricochets off the walls. Dixieland jazz, progressive jazz, rhythm and blues, country and western, Cajun country fiddle music, black Cajun music (a separate category). There's even Ryan's, the Irish bar, where the Innis Frees oblige with misty ballads of the celtic sod.

In all this, the one thing hard to find is the sort of jazz that the old men used to play in quiet bars. New Orleans is now a leading tourist and conference centre, and tourism kills the thing it loves. Most visitors are assumed to prefer the smoother, flashier, easier-on-the-ear strains of Dixieland or the familiar below of rock 'n' roll.

The nearest thing to the old style can be heard at Preservation Hall, on St Peter Street, where a sound that Buddy Bolden might have recognized is created every evening from 8 o'clock onwards.

Preservation Hall is a shabby small barn, or large hut, devoid of everything that makes life worth living except jazz. There are no drinks, no food, no waiters. There is no air conditioning and very little light. Most patrons have to stand and there is nothing to do except listen to the music. On the walls are faded photographs of musicians of the past and a sign which says that traditional requests cost \$1, other requests \$2, and "The Saints" \$5.

The consequence is that the place is jam-packed every night, and those who cannot get in stand outside on the street, pressing their ears against the shutters. The rest



Old-style New Orleans: a man, his treasured instrument, and a gaudy joint in which to play it. That's real, mean jazz. For a cooler, touristy evening out, try the ole foot-tappa' Hilton hotel

of New Orleans is Dixieland, some very good Dixieland. The mellifluous clarinet of the veteran Pete Fountain sets the Hilton hotel's collective foot tapping every night. The youthful Dukes of Dixieland, powered by a drummer of ferocious brilliance, play college-boy, straw-hat, Chicago-style jazz most nights at Mahogany Hall on Bourbon Street. This was one of the bordellos where jazz was born and it has a pleasanter atmosphere than some of the tourist dollar-peeling joints.

You can hear less starry but agreeable bands at the New Storyville Jazz Hall on Decatur Street and the Famous Door on Bourbon, or in the open air in front of the cathedral in Jackson Square,

the heart of the city's venerable French Quarter. If you are extraordinarily lucky, you may even see one of the riotous jazz funerals blowing and dancing on its cheerful way back from the cemetery.

New Orleans has plenty to offer the visitor. The French Quarter, with its 19th century villas and lacy ironwork balconies, has a style all of its own, with glittering antique shops and some of the best restaurants in world.

Of these, the most famous is Antoine's on St Louis Street, with more waiters per square foot than you'd credit. The locals also speak highly of Arnaud's, on Bienville Street, which has a turn-of-the-century air, but for real French cooking and charm, you can't

beat The Court of the Two Sisters, Royal Street. Brennan's, also on Royal Street, is famous for breakfasts and eggs Benedict. The Rib Room, on St Louis Street, does roast beef, and what the locals think is Yorkshire pudding. For the traditional Creole cuisine — gumbo, jambalaya and so on — it must be Tujagues, Decatur Street. For spicy Cajun food, try Père Antoine's, corner of Royal and St Ann.

By London standards, restaurant prices are reasonable. Among its other delights, New Orleans offers streetcar and carriage rides and (back to music) jazz evenings on Mississippi steamers.

Yes, there's lots of enjoyable music to hear. But not much of the real old thing.



Pure jazz: Preservation Hall, unadulterated entertainment

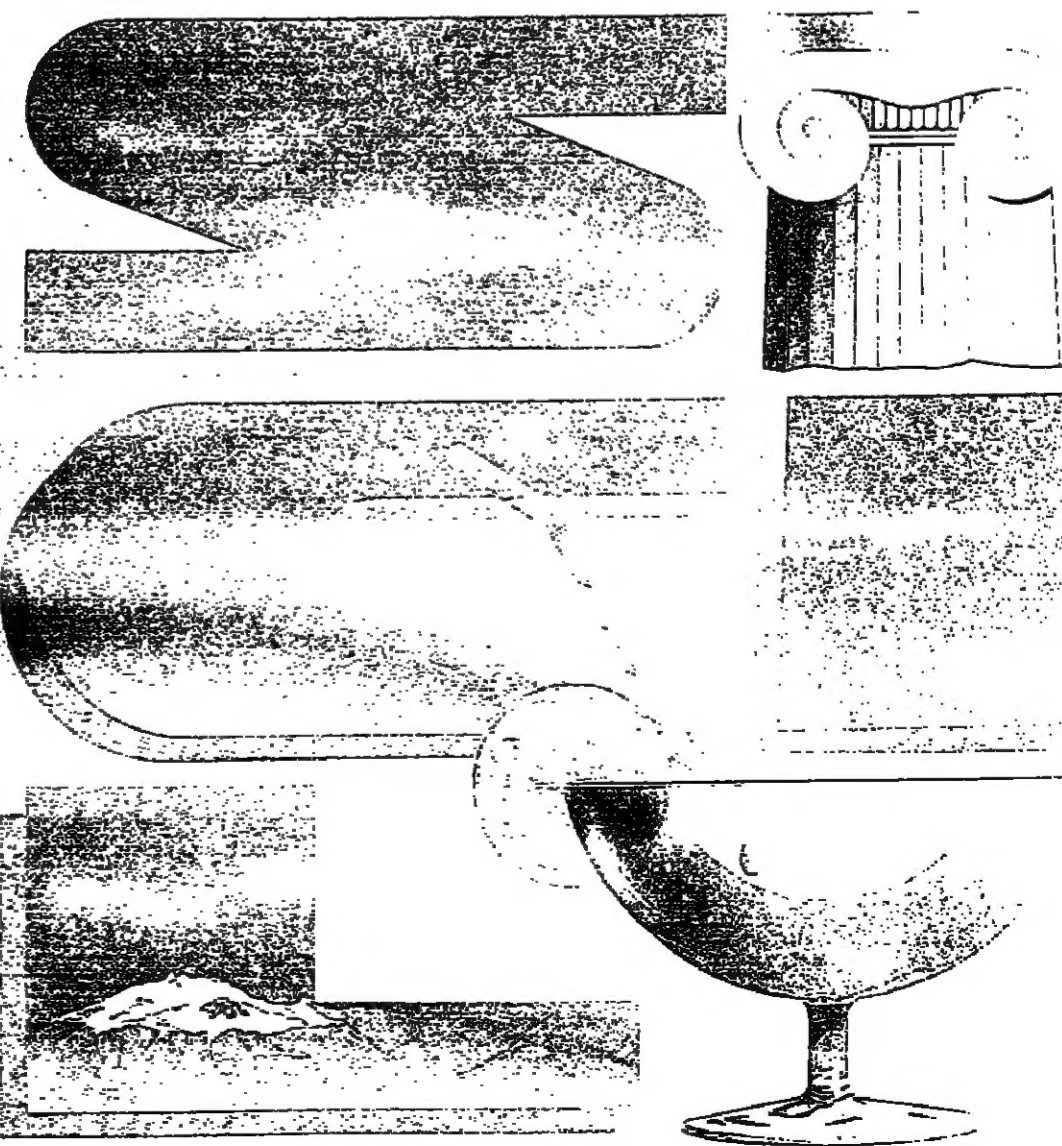
TRAVEL NOTES

● Richard Cavendish flew to New Orleans by TWA (01-636 4090) via New York, but complains: "Planes were late or cancelled, connections missed; nobody seemed to care. You would do better with British Airways, flying via Atlanta." BA (01-697 4000), economy class, low-season return from £314, high-season £408 (midweek travel, seven nights minimum stay).

● The glossy Hilton Riverside and Hyatt Regency hotels charge more than £70 per night. Mr Cavendish stayed in modest comfort at the Landmark French Quarter Hotel, 920 North Rampart St (524 3333), £35 per night single room. Rates do not include breakfast or state tax.

ausonia

Sicilian Rainbow Holidays



ISLAND OF LIGHT

SICILY THANKS TO MILD WINTER, DRY, SUNNY AND A MILD CLIMATE ALL THE YEAR ROUND AND A DEEP AND RICH BLUE SEA FOR THE WINTER MONTHS. IN THE COURSE OF A YEAR THE SUN SHINES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AVERAGE OF OVER 6 HOURS A DAY, ILLUMINATING PARADISE FOR 2,000 HOURS. MARSALA AND SYRACUSE FOR 2,400 AND CATANIA FOR OVER 2,500 (A THOUSAND HOURS MORE THAN LONDON - SORRY).

A WINTER IN THE SUNLIGHT TO GO IN SEARCH OF BEAUTY.

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT

Ausonia the Sicilian holiday specialists can now offer an insight into the real Sicily. Return the coupon today or call 0293 620020 for our free 60 page colour brochure detailing our complete range of specially selected Sicilian hotels and self catering apartments, in both sophisticated and unspoilt surroundings. From £192 Fly Drive and £236 Half Board. Prices per week per person. Minimum 2 people sharing. I would like to receive a copy of Ausonia's Sicilian Rainbow Holidays 1990 brochure.

NAME: Mr/Ms/Ms

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

Ausonia Services Ltd., Ausonia House, 15 Station Road, Morley, Surrey RH6 9HW

ausonia



Look lively.

With 0% finance available, you should take a close look at a new MG 1300 or GTa Metro.

Both cars display lively good looks. Both sport a whole host of accessories. The GTa Metro boasts alloy wheels, sports seats, rev counter and a four speaker stereo radio/cassette.

METRO GTa

The MG 1300 offers even more. Featuring a sunroof, leather steering wheel and central door locking, it also boasts sports seats, rev counter and a four speaker stereo radio/cassette.

Both cars have any number of easy payment plans available. What could be simpler?

So if you want sporting good looks at a price you can afford, you'd better look lively. But then, once you're the proud owner of an MG 1300 or GTa Metro, you always will.

MG 1300

ROVER

MG 1300, MG 1300i, MG 1300i 16V, MG 1300i 16V 16V and MG 1300i 16V 16V 16V. All prices are correct at time of going to press. Excludes VAT and estimated cost of road tax, number plates and delivery. Credit available to anyone aged 18 or over, subject to status. A guarantee may be required through power finance. For full details of your nearest Rover dealer and a free brochure on the entire range, phone 0257 555100.

Mellor def
Inma
as ri
Eight

INSIDE
prises in
FA Cup

ools loss

ita limited

orgia mourns

tourist trail

ven pledge

INDEX